SAYONARA, ZETSUBOU-SENSEI

THE POWER OF NEGATIVE THINKING VOLUME 2

KOJI KUMETA

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SAYONARA, ZETSUBOU-SENSEI

The Power of Negative Thinking 2

Koji Kumeta

Translated and adapted by Joshua Weeks
Lettered by North Market Street Graphics

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SAYONARA, ZETSUBOU-SENSEI

The Power of Negative Thinking 2

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Honorifics Explained

Throughout the Kodansha Comics books, you will find Japanese honorifics left intact in the translations. For those not familiar with how the Japanese use honorifics and, more important, how they differ from American honorifics, we present this brief overview.

Politeness has always been a critical facet of Japanese culture. Ever since the feudal era, when Japan was a highly stratified society, use of honorifics—which can be defined as polite speech that indicates relationship or status—has played an essential role in the Japanese language. When addressing someone in Japanese, an honorific usually takes the form of a suffix attached to one's name (example: "Asuna-san"), is used as a title at the end of one's name, or appears in place of the name itself (example: "Negi-sensei," or simply "Sensei!").

Honorifics can be expressions of respect or endearment. In the context of manga and anime, honorifics give insight into the nature of the relationship between characters. Many English translations leave out these important honorifics and therefore distort the feel of the original Japanese. Because Japanese honorifics contain nuances that English honorifics lack, it is our policy at Kodansha Comics not to translate them. Here, instead, is a guide to some of the honorifics you may encounter in Kodansha Comics books.

-san: This is the most common honorific and is equivalent to Mr., Miss, Ms., or Mrs. It is the all-purpose honorific and can be used in any situation where politeness is required.

-sama: This is one level higher than "-san" and is used to confer great respect.

-dono: This comes from the word "tono," which means "lord." It is an even higher level than "-sama" and confers utmost respect.

-chan: This is used to express endearment, mostly toward girls. It is also used for little boys, pets, and even among lovers. It gives a sense of childish cuteness.

Bozu: This is an informal way to refer to a boy, similar to the English terms "kid" and "squirt."

Sempai/

Senpai: This title suggests that the addressee is one's senior in a group or organization. It is most often used in a school setting, where underclassmen refer to their upperclassmen as "sempai." It can also be used in the workplace, such as when a newer employee addresses an employee who has seniority in the company.

Kohai: This is the opposite of "sempai" and is used toward underclassmen in school or newcomers in the workplace. It connotes that the addressee is of a lower station.

Sensei: Literally meaning "one who has come before," this title is used for teachers, doctors, or masters of any profession or art.

-[blank]: This is usually forgotten in these lists, but it is perhaps the most significant difference between Japanese and English. The lack of honorific means that the speaker has permission to address the person in a very intimate way. Usually, only family, spouses, or very close friends have this kind of permission. Known as *yobisute,* it can be gratifying when someone who has earned the intimacy starts to call one by one's name without an honorific. But when that intimacy hasn't been earned, it can be very insulting.

Koji Kumeta

SAYONARA, ZETSUBOU-SENSEI 2

The Power of Negative Thinking

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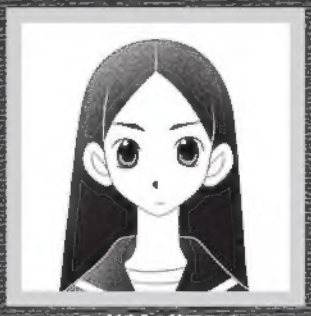
Cast of Characters

ATTENDANCE LIST
CLASS 2-F

TEACHER-IN-CHARGE
NOZOMU ITOSHIKI
SUPER-NEGATIVE MAN

KIRI KOMORI
HIKIKOMORI GIRL



CHIRI KITSU
METHODICAL AND PRECISE GIRL

TARO MARIA SEKIUTSU
ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT, REFUGEE GIRL

MATOI TSUNETSUKI
SUPER-LOVE-OBSESSED STALKER GIRL

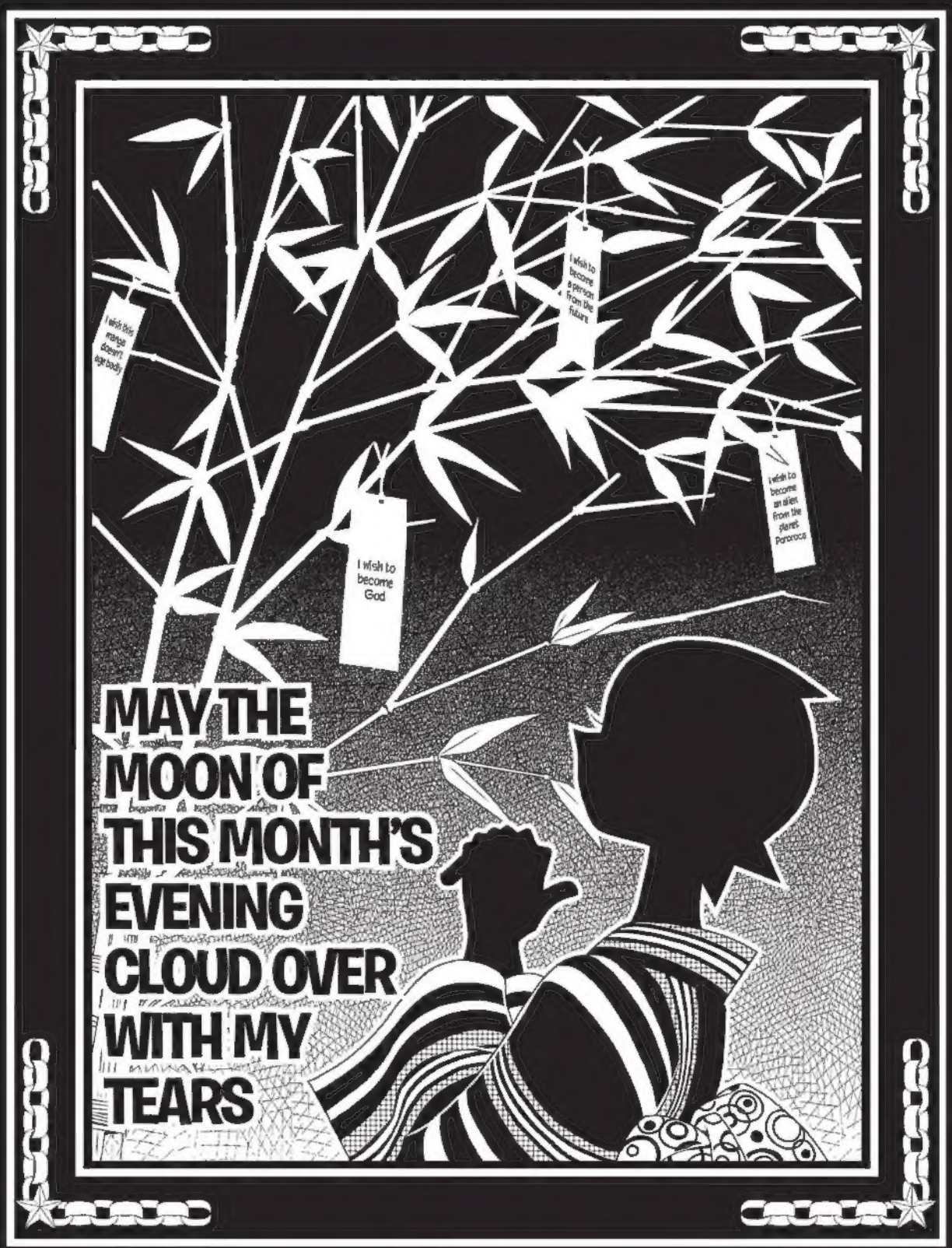
KAERE KIMURA
(ALSO KAEDE)
BILINGUAL GIRL

KAFUKA FUURA
SUPER-POSITIVE GIRL

NAMI HITOU
ORDINARY GIRL

ABIRU KOBUSHI
TAIL FETISH GIRL; THOUGHT TO BE VICTIM OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

MERU OTONASHI
POISON EMAIL GIRL


I wish this manga doesn't age badly
I wish to become a person from the future
I wish to become an alien from the planet Pororoca
I wish to become God
MAY THE MOON OF THIS MONTH'S EVENING CLOUD OVER WITH MY TEARS

CHAPTER 11

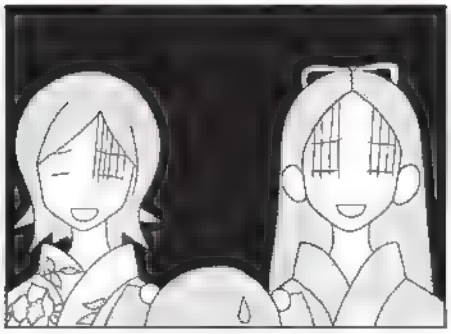
Please keep everyone safe —JR
One more chance— Great King of Terror
Let me be a celebrity forever —Moe
Please give me more
Please let them forget the piano
May Japan become a ~~permanent~~ member of the ~~UN Security Council~~ Establish ~~cool~~ warm biz!
May I recapture my popularity!!! —Tamao Nishi
~~May he maintain his popularity~~ May he walk —Chiba Zoo
.....
WISHES ARE NEVER GRANTED!

AND THE STAR-CROSSED LOVERS ORIHIME AND HIKOBOSHI WILL NEVER REUNITE!
THINGS DON'T COME TRUE JUST BECAUSE YOU WISH FOR THEM!
AND OCCASIONALLY DEAD BODIES FLOAT THROUGH IT!
THE MILKY WAY'S A SEWER!
WHAT'RE YOU DOING, SENSEI?
IT'S TRUE... I'M LIKE THIS EVERY YEAR DURING THE TANABATA STAR FESTIVAL... ABSOLUTELY MISERABLE.
AHA! SO, YOU'VE FOUND MY SECRET!

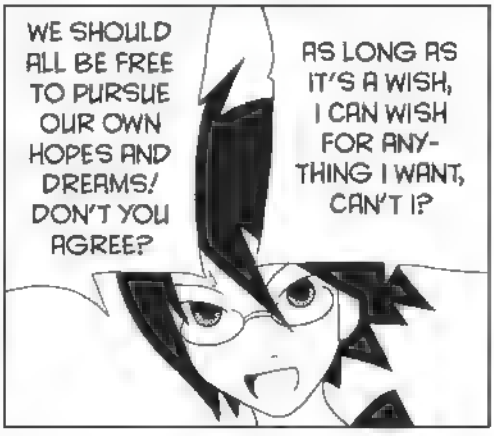
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, YOUR SECRET? I THOUGHT YOU WERE LIKE THIS *ALL* THE TIME.
THINGS DON'T COME TRUE JUST BECAUSE YOU WISH FOR THEM!
WISHING'S JUST A WASTE OF TIME!
BUT WISHES *ALWAYS* COME TRUE!
LOOK AT THIS SKY FULL OF STARS.
ONE OF THOSE STARS IS SURE TO GRANT YOUR WISH!
LET ME TRY...
...TO MAKE A WISH.
WELL, I SUPPOSE YOU NEVER KNOW...

I want to resign

DON'T HANG A WISH LIKE THAT!



QUIT TEACH-ING!
YEAH, I WANT TO QUIT!
SO, YOU WANT TO QUIT?
AND QUIT LIVING!
松鶴屋


WE SHOULD ALL BE FREE TO PURSUE OUR OWN HOPES AND DREAMS! DON'T YOU AGREE?
AS LONG AS IT'S A WISH, I CAN WISH FOR ANY-THING I WANT, CAN'T I?

ERRR...UM... IT'S NOT REALLY LIKE THAT...
I REALLY JUST WANT TO QUIT...
EVEN THOUGH YOU WANT TO QUIT DEEP INSIDE, YOU CONCEAL IT AND THROW YOURSELF COMPLETELY INTO TEACHING.

じーん
Awwww
JUST AS I THOUGHT. YOU'RE A WONDERFUL TEACHER!

IF YOU HANG YOUR WISH ON A BAMBOO BRANCH, IT'LL COME TRUE, JUST YOU WAIT!
WISHES DO COME TRUE!
Please make me a woman right away!

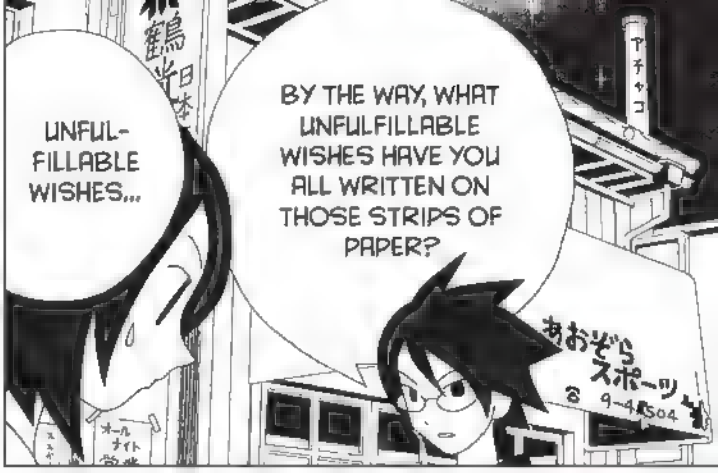
SO WHAT DO YOU HAVE THERE?
ANYWAY, I GATHERED TOGETHER SOME POSTCARDS OF STUDENTS WHO JUST FINISHED EXAMS. NOW THEY WANT TO GET INTO A GOOD COLLEGE!
H University
Momogaka Music School

THEIR COLLEGE APPLICATION FORMS!
Tokyo Hachioji-shi, Higashi Nakano
Shitou University
Attn: Admissions Department
Hiroshi Yume

WHAT'S THE POINT OF DOING IT NOW?
AS LONG AS THEY'RE HANGING THERE, IT JUST WON'T HAPPEN.
MAY THEIR WISHES COME TRUE! MAY THEIR WISHES COME TRUE!
七夕まつり

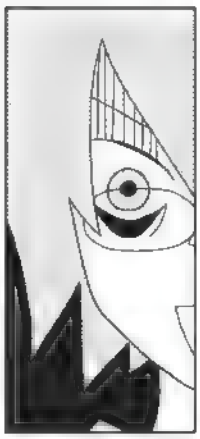
BUT... SCHOOL STARTS IN SEPTEMBER...

a new magazine
good health too —Ayaka
SO, WHAT DO WE HAVE HERE?
THIS MUST BE KOBUSHI-SAN'S WISH.

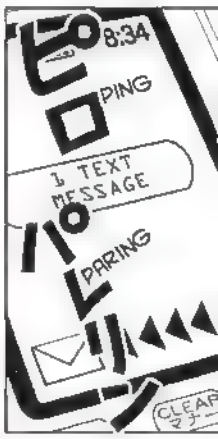

UNFUL-FILLABLE WISHES...
BY THE WAY, WHAT UNFULFILLABLE WISHES HAVE YOU ALL WRITTEN ON THOSE STRIPS OF PAPER?

Let me appear too—Hane
FIDGET SQUIRM
もじ
I SEE, SO THE WISHES CHANGE TO SUIT YOUR REQUIREMENTS— A FLEXIBLE WISH LIST, IF YOU WILL.
THIS ONE MUST BE MERU-SAN'S.

IT LOOKS LIKE SOME INDIGENOUS TRIBE'S TERRITORIAL MARKING...KIND OF FRIGHTENING, ACTUALLY...



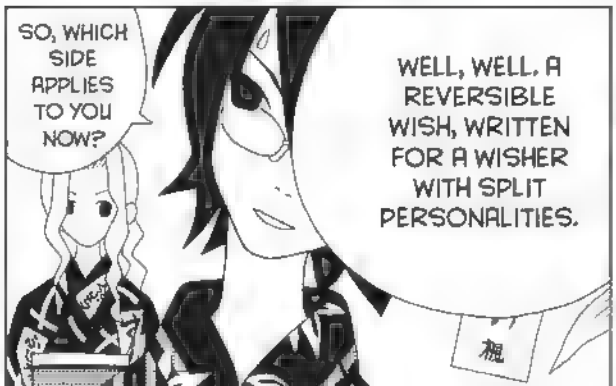
8:34
I WISH NO ONE FINDS OUT ABOUT SENSEI'S WIG
REPLY
SUBMENU
CLEAR MENU


8:34
PING
1 TEXT MESSAGE

FLIP
Make everything peaceful and harmonious —Kanda

Sue more people —Keere
...WHAT'S THIS?

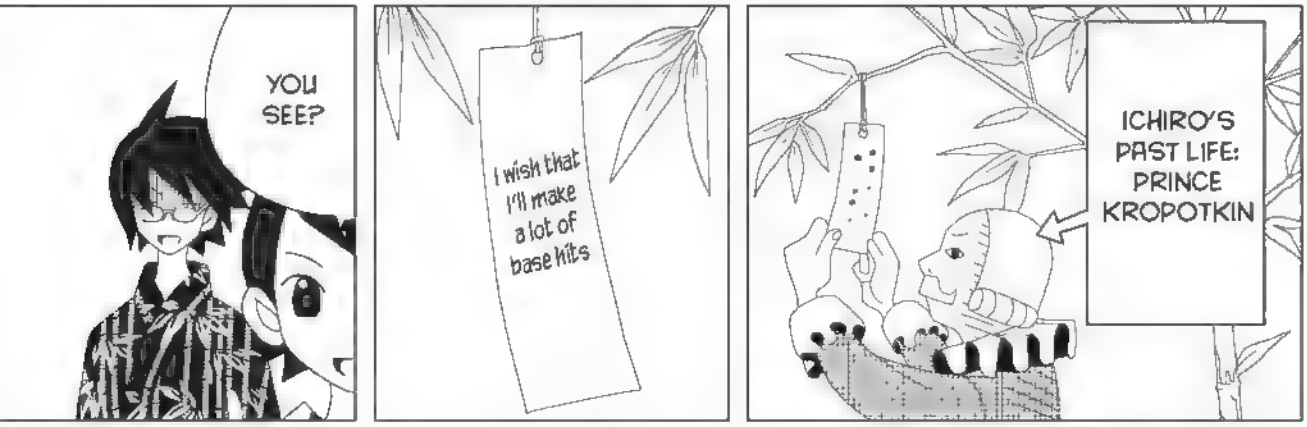
YOU THINK I WEAR A WIG?!!
SQUIRM
FIDGET
もじ
もじ

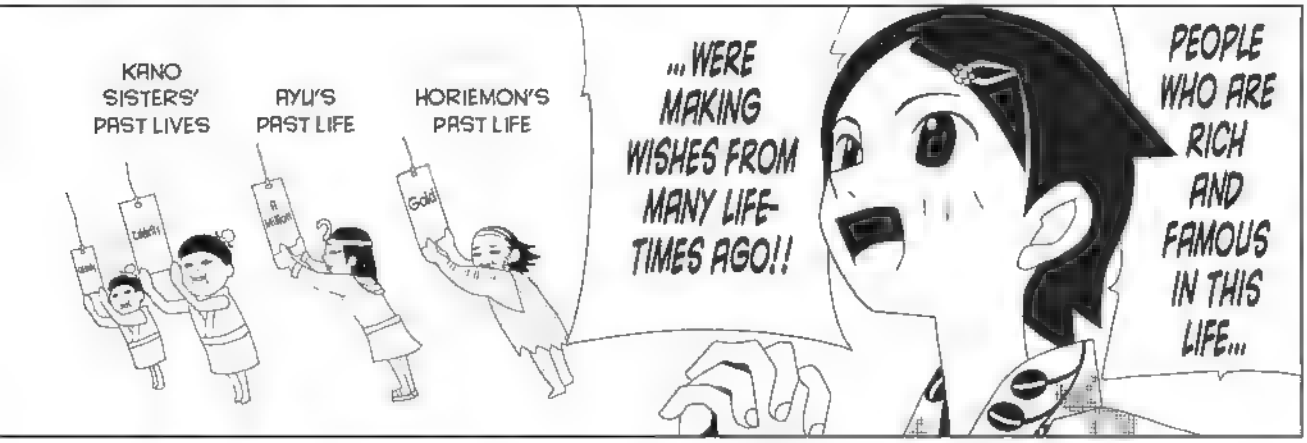

SO, WHICH SIDE APPLIES TO YOU NOW?
WELL, WELL. A REVERSIBLE WISH, WRITTEN FOR A WISHER WITH SPLIT PERSONALITIES.

Exam
University. F
in love with TV
champion Riki.
Marries at age 23,
and has 3 children
(in order: boy, girl,
second boy). At
age 40, starts a
part-time job.
WHOSE IS THIS?
IT'S MINE.
THIS IS MORE LIKE YOUR LIFE PLAN!
I WANTED MY WISHES TO BE CLEAR AND CONCISE.
I DIDN'T JUST WANT TO MAKE VAGUE WISHES.
SHAME
どよんど
May all of mankind be blessed with happiness
IT'S REAL TO YOU, SO YOU WISH FOR SOMETHING LIKE THIS...
May all of mankind be blessed with happiness
I HAD A PRIEST WRITE IT FOR ME!
I HANG UP MY WISH TOO!
DOOON'T CALL ME ORDINARY.
I want an iPod
SO ORDINARY.
I want an iPod
.....
OH, THAT'S MINE.
WHAT ABOUT THIS ONE?

IN THE NEXT LIFE?
OR IN THE NEXT, NEXT LIFE?
WHEN DO YOU EXPECT THESE WISHES TO COME TRUE?
I WISH THAT I'LL WEAR GLASSES.
...I WISHED TO WEAR GLASSES IN MY PAST LIFE?
AM I WEARING THESE GLASSES BECAUSE...
JUST 'CAUSE I SAY "PAST LIFE," DOESN'T MEAN I WANT TO HEAR YOUR VIEWS ON REINCARNATION!
DON'T BUG ME!
NOW, THAT'S QUITE AN INTERESTING VIEWPOINT.
SEEMS THE FIRE'S BURNING IN YOUR DELUSIONAL MIND AGAIN.
I GUESS IT'D BE ASKING TOO MUCH IF THOSE GRANDIOSE WISHES WERE SWIFTLY GRANTED IN JUST ONE LIFETIME.
...MUST HAVE MADE WISHES IN THEIR PAST AND PAST, PAST LIVES!
WHAT I'M SAYING IS, SUCCESSFUL PEOPLE...

I THINK HE'S BEEN MAKING WISHES FROM MANY LIFE-TIMES AGO.
TAKE ICHIRO, FOR EXAMPLE. HE COULDN'T HAVE ACHIEVED ALL THAT SUCCESS BY LIVING JUST ONE LIFE.


YOU SEE?
I wish that I'll make a lot of base hits
ICHIRO'S PAST LIFE: PRINCE KROPOTKIN


KANO SISTERS' PAST LIVES
AYU'S PAST LIFE
HORIEMON'S PAST LIFE
...WERE MAKING WISHES FROM MANY LIFE-TIMES AGO!!
PEOPLE WHO ARE RICH AND FAMOUS IN THIS LIFE...

HUH?
...GAVE ME TRUE LOVE IN THIS LIFE.
WHAT I MEAN IS...MY WISHES IN A PAST LIFE...

YOU... YOU WERE HERE?
I GET IT.
ALL ALONG.

WHAT'S THIS GIRL TALKING ABOUT AGAIN?
FOR US TO BE TOGETHER IN THIS LIFE, YOU JUMPED INTO LAKE OJAGA IN YOUR PAST LIFE.
YOU, WHO SLEEPS, HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN?

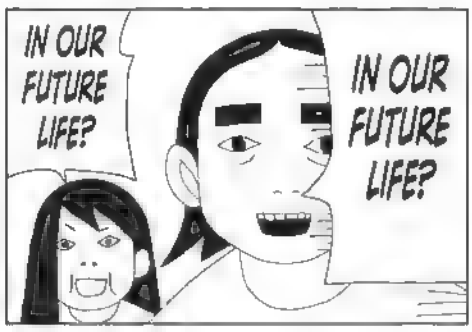
THESE ARE BAMBOO TREES FOR FUTURE LIVES...

...AND BAMBOO TREES FOR FUTURE, FUTURE LIVES!

C'MON! LET'S ALL WRITE OUR WISHES FOR THE NEXT LIFE!!
IF YOUR WISHES AREN'T GRANTED IN THIS LIFE, THEY'LL DEFINITELY BE GRANTED IN YOUR FUTURE LIVES!

わら
SWARM
わら
SWARM
SOMEHOW IT SEEMS SHE'S CAPTURED THE SUPPORT OF THE MASSES!
PLEASE DON'T PUSH! THERE ARE ALWAYS OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE NEXT, NEXT LIFE.

IN OUR FUTURE LIFE?


IN OUR FUTURE LIFE?
IN OUR FUTURE LIFE?

...TO MARRY THE SINGER CHISA YOKOYAMA!
IN MY NEXT LIFE, MAY I BE GRANTED MY WISH...
...I WANNA BE A MEMBER OF MORNING MUSUME!
IN MY NEXT LIFE...

May the racehorse Haru Urara win in the next life
—Horse Owner

May I not have offside decisions in the next life
—Kaji

May I get together with Komuro in the next life
—Tomo

May I be the chief mourner in the next life
—Younger Brother

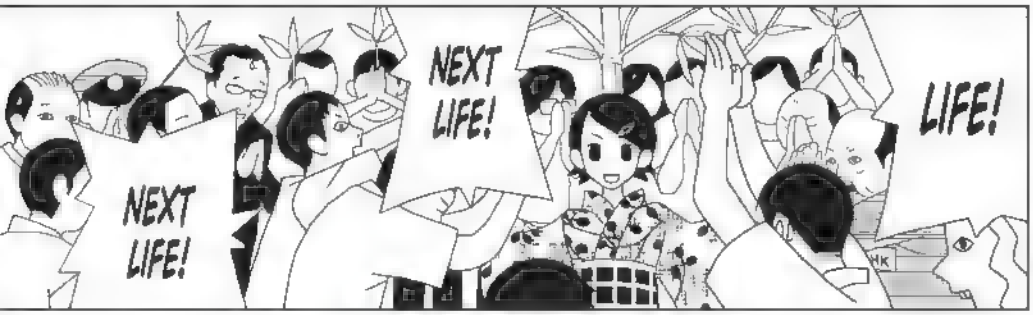
May Dreamcast beat Playstation in the next life
—Managing Director

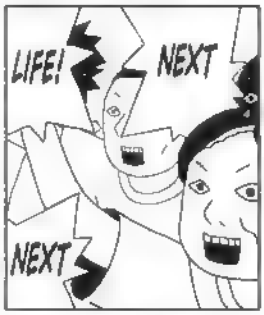
May I not kill Lalah in the next life
—Amuro

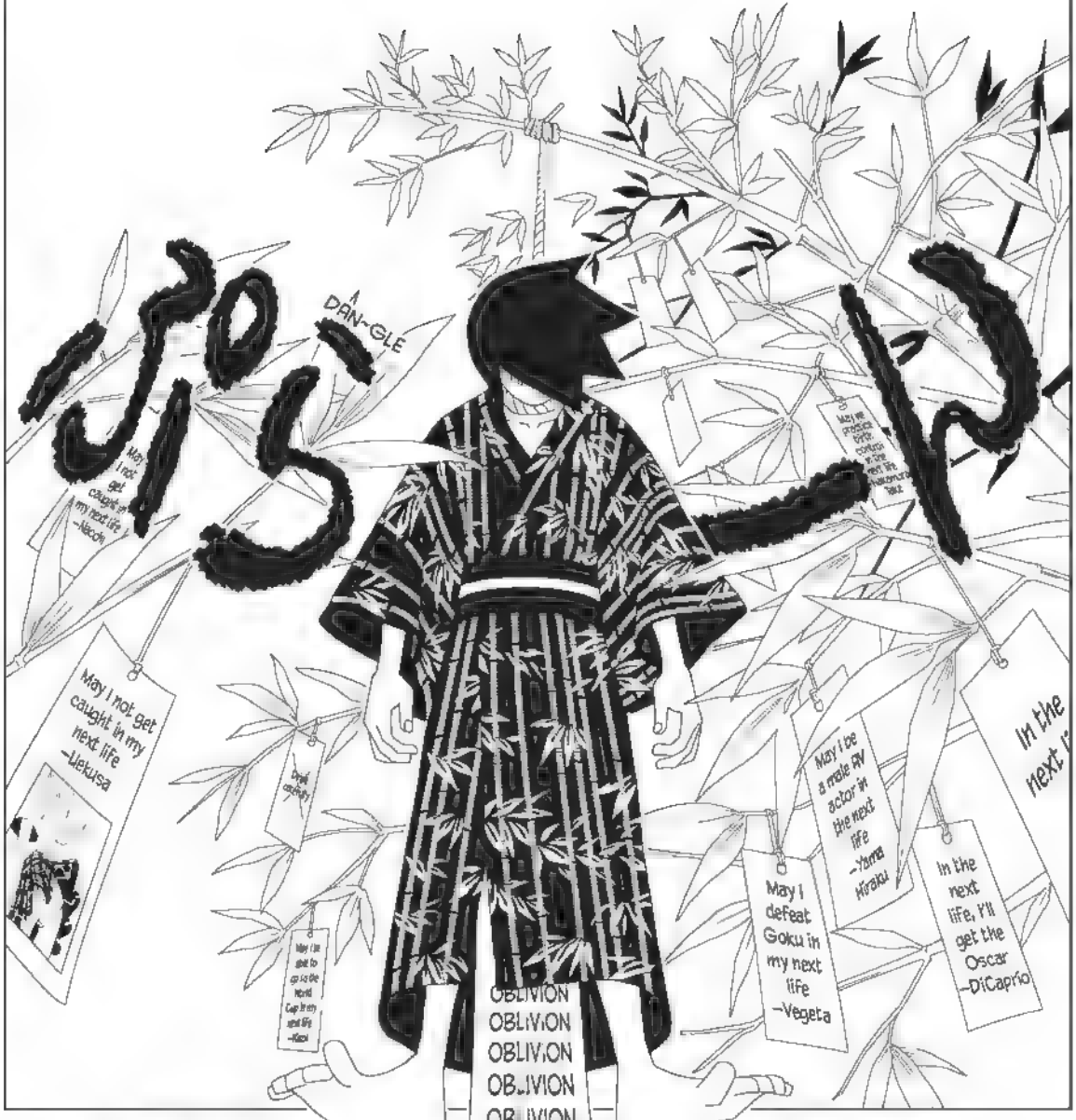
May the whole world be red in the next life
—Lenin

May I be able to draw "Touch" in the next life
—Me

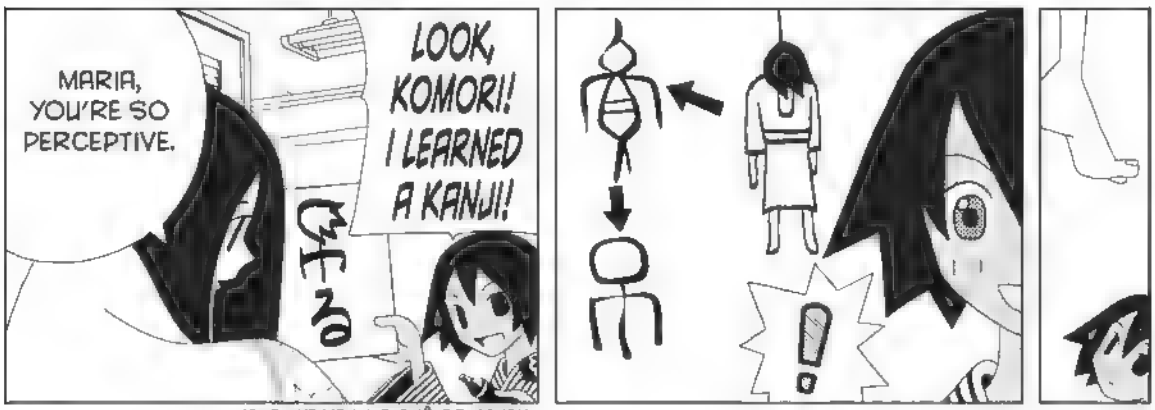
IN MY NEXT LIFE, MAY I MAKE MY DEBUT IN THE MAJOR LEAGUES!
IN *THIS* LIFE, WHAT'S FOR SURE IS, IMPOSSIBLE WISHES ARE BEING MADE BY IMPOSSIBLE PEOPLE!





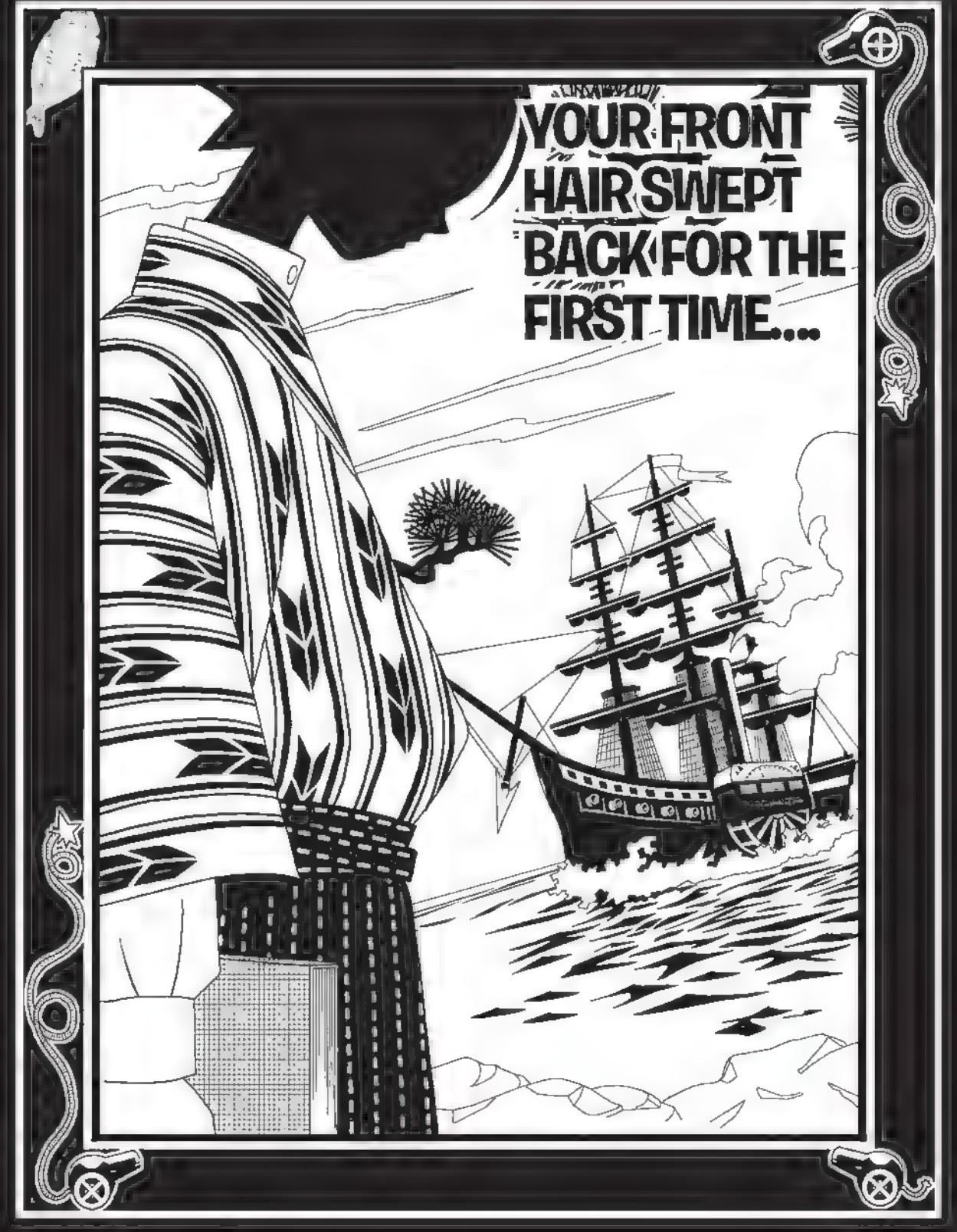

DAN-GLE
May I not get caught in my next life –Ueki
May I not get caught in my next life –Uekusa
May I be a male AV actor in the next life –Yamai Hiraku
May I defeat Goku in my next life –Vegeta
In the next life, I'll get the Oscar –DiCaprio
In the next l
OBLIVION
OBLIVION
OBLIVION
OBLIVION
OBLIVION

WELL, IF THE DESIRE REALLY ISN'T IN YOU...
SEEMS LIKE MY WISH... TO GO SWIFTLY INTO THE NEXT LIFE...WASN'T GRANTED.
SO, THAT'S SUPPOSED TO BE YOUR HANGING WISH?



*NOTE: THE KANJI IS *CHŌ* OR *TSURU*, MEANING "TO HANG."

I want
to be a
in my
next life

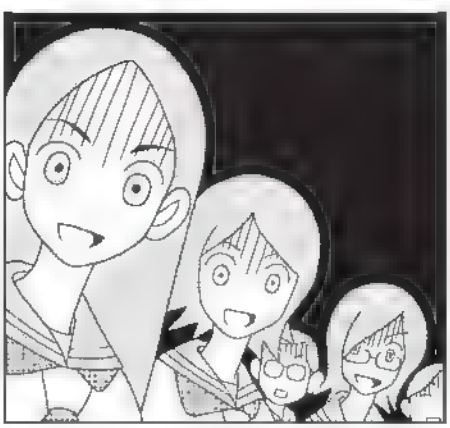


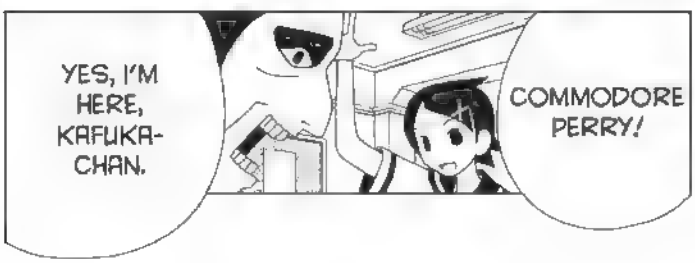
CHAPTER 12

7月
日 月 火 水 木 金 土
1 2
3 4 5 6 7 8 9
10 11 12 13 14 15 16
開校記念日
17 18 19 20 21 22 23
24 25 26 27 28 29 30
31
KEEE
KEEE
13
開校記念日
JULY 13... THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE OPENING OF JAPAN.
PERRY-SAN WILL BE COMING.
ガラ
SHFF
WHAT?

...FOR THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE OPENING OF JAPAN!
COMMODORE PERRY'S ARRIVED...

YOU MEAN, OPENED THE SCHOOL, RIGHT?
IS IT BECAUSE YOU OPENED JAPAN?
WHAT'S THIS ABOUT?




YES, I'M HERE, KAFUKA-CHAN.
COMMODORE PERRY!

LET ME JUST SAY THAT, NOW THAT THE COMMODORE'S HERE, A LOT OF THINGS'LL START OPENING UP.
YOU'D BETTER STOP MAKING FRIENDS WITH EVERYONE SO EASILY.
IS HE A FRIEND OF YOURS?
HE'S A BADLY BEHAVED FOREIGNER WHO TRIES TO OPEN EVERYTHING.
PERRY-SAN IS INSATIABLE. HE WON'T SETTLE FOR JUST OPENING UP THE PORTS.
PERRY-SAN OPENS UP EVERY-THING, YOU SEE.
A SPLIT-OPEN, DRIED HORSE MACKEREL?
A DRIED HORSE MACKEREL?
HEY!
DASH
だっ

LET'S NOT GET INVOLVED.
HE'LL GO THROUGH THE WHOLE SCHOOL AND OPEN UP EVERYTHING IMAGINABLE!
TEACHER, YOU'D BETTER RUN AFTER PERRY-SAN.
下家いじり禁止編集
LIBRARY
TMP
WH-WHAT THE... ?!
THIS GUY WHO LOOKS LIKE COMMODORE PERRY STORMED IN...
...OPENED ANYTHING RESEMBLING A BOOK, AND TOOK OFF.
PERRY-SAN DID THIS?!
HE CERTAINLY DID.
WE'VE GOT TO GO AFTER HIM.
NOOOOOO!

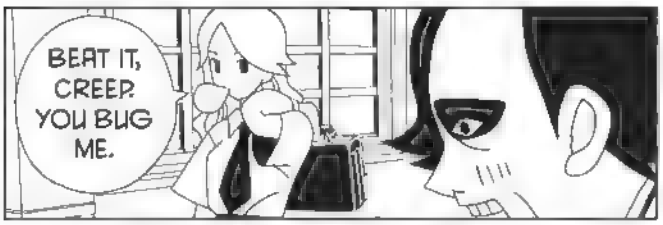
DOORS, LOCKERS, EVERYTHING IN SIGHT HAS BEEN OPENED UP.
AT A GLANCE, IT'S OBVIOUS WHERE PERRY-SAN'S BEEN...

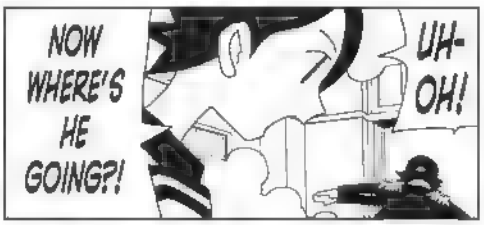
NOOO! DON'T OPEN THE GAS TAPS!
しゅうう
PFSSSTT

HOME ECONOMICS
WH-WH...
WHAT'S THIS SMELL?

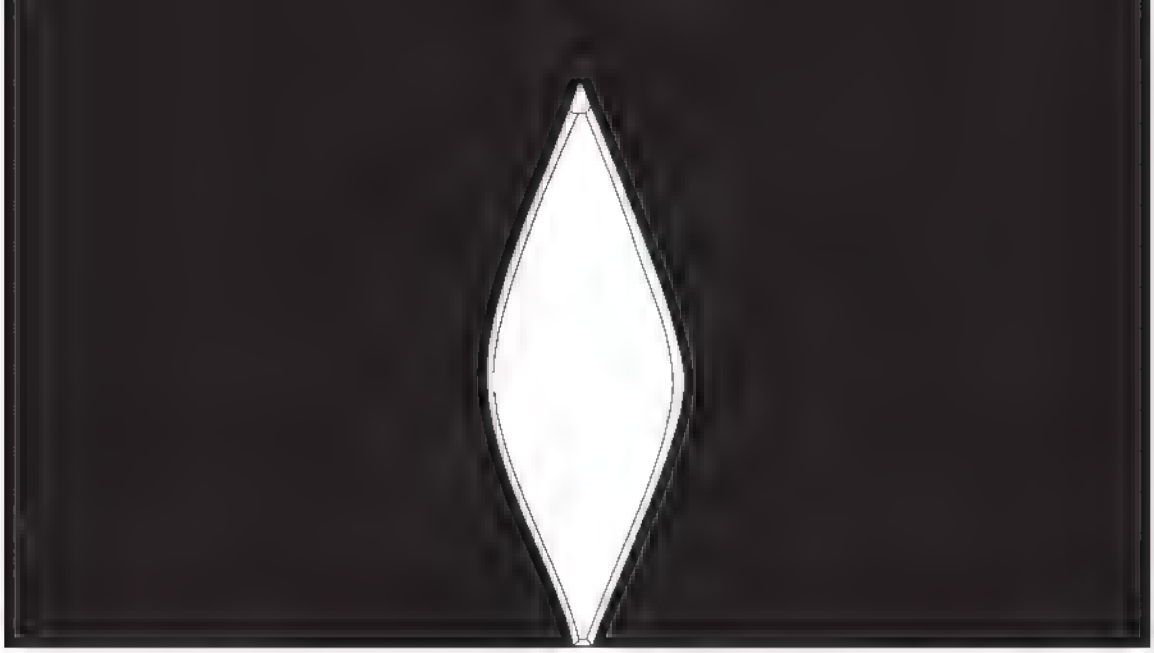
WHAT IF THEY START SCRUTINIZING THIS PLACE MORE CAREFULLY?!
BESIDES, I HAD MY EYES ON THAT SPOT BEFORE YOU DID.

SOME THINGS ARE OKAY TO OPEN, BUT OTHER THINGS AREN'T!
EVEN IF YOU'RE COMMODORE PERRY...


BEAT IT, CREEP. YOU BUG ME.


NOW WHERE'S HE GOING?!
UH-OH!

PERRY-SAN... THAT'S A BIT MUCH...
AIEE-EEE-EEE!
HEY THERE, LITTLE GIRL. OPEN UP!



PERRY-SAN! THAT'S A BIT MUCH TOO!
ZIPPP
じーっ

COME WHAT MAY, I'LL OPEN UP EVERYTHING IN SIGHT!
I AM PERRY!

AND WHAT TENDENCY IS THAT?!
OH MY!
I HAVE A TEENY TENDENCY IN THAT DIRECTION TOO.

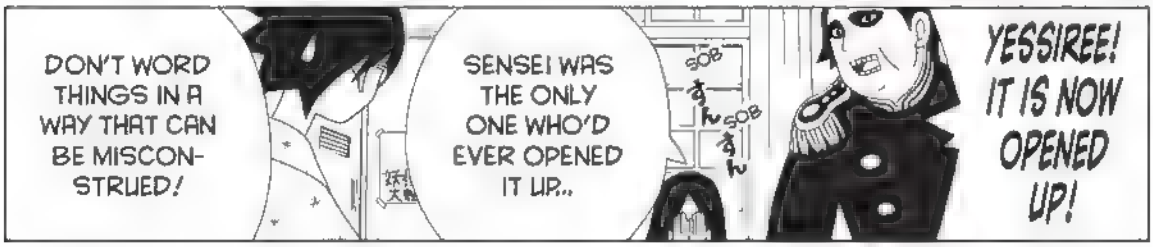
TEACHER, YOU AREN'T TRYING VERY HARD TO STOP HIM.
IT'S A ROOM THAT CAN'T BE OPENED. OR RATHER, IT'S THE HIKIKOMORI'S ROOM.
WHAT'S THIS?
Do Not Open —Kiri

KOMORI
AJZA
PLEASE BE QUIET IN THE CORRIDOR

KACHING
ぴっ
OH NO! IT'S OPEN!
HYAHH!

LEER
EEEK!
STOMP
STOMP
ずが ずが

OH NO! YOU'VE OPENED IT AGAIN!
カパッ
EXPOSE


DON'T WORD THINGS IN A WAY THAT CAN BE MISCON-STRUED!
SENSEI WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO'D EVER OPENED IT UP..
SOB
すん SOB すん
YESSIREE! IT IS NOW OPENED UP!

PERRY-SAN THREATENED THE PRINCIPAL...
SENSEI! WE'VE GOT BIG PROBLEMS!

WHY IS IT NOT OPENED?

...AND FORCED HIM TO OPEN UP THE POOL!
...I CAN OPEN THE POOL TOO.
'CUZ I'M PERRY...
WHAT IF THEY START CONTROLLING ACCESS MORE STRICTLY?!
I FOUND THAT SPOT FIRST FOR MY SUICIDE BY DROWNING!
HE OPENED THE POOL?
AND IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT, WHY ARE YOU ALL IN SWIMSUITS?
THIS LOOKS LIKE AN EFFORT TO WIN EVERYONE'S FAVOR...I'M NOT IMPRESSED.

I'LL FIGHT YOU TO THE MAX IN COURT!
THERE'S NO WAY I'LL TAKE THAT LYING DOWN!
I'M GONNA SUE YOU!
HEY YOU! HOW DARE YOU VIOLATE ME BACK THERE?!
YOU'RE THE BAD ONE, 'CUZ OF THAT SHORT SKIRT.
WAAAH WAAH! SHUT UP, YOU UGLY HOBAG!
HEY, I'M PERRY. SURE, I'LL OPENLY DEFY YOU!
SNEER
S-SO... YOU'RE OPENLY DEFYING ME?!
PERRY-SAN, IF YOU WANT TO OPEN EVERYTHING AND ANYTHING AROUND...
YOU THINK YOU'RE BEING CLEVER?!
OPEN UP!
THAT'S BAD!
SENSEI HAS A CLOSED POLICY WHEN IT COMES TO HIS HEART. HE'S NEVER OPENED IT UP TO ANYONE.
CLOSED...
HEY! MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS!
SEE IF YOU CAN OPEN THE DOOR TO OUR TEACHER'S HEART.

NOPE
ぶんぶん
NOPE
ぶんぶん
OPEN YOUR HEART!

BUT IT WAS TO NO AVAIL.
USING ALL SORTS OF METHODS, PERRY TRIED HIS UTMOST TO OPEN UP ZETSUBOU-SENSEI'S HEART.

STAY WITH ME FOREVER
OUZAN MIKI LIVE CONCERT
NOPE
NOPE

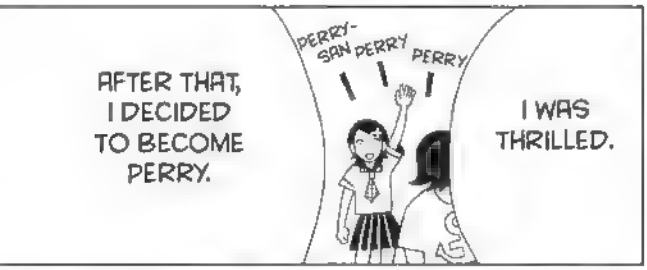
がっくし
SIGH...
UENO CLINIC
UENO

IT'S A SEALED GIRLIE MAGAZINE!
SEALED
RIPPP
べりっ
OPEN UP, DAMN YOU!

SHLIPP
すっ
SHIKORA
SEALED

WHEN YOU OPEN UP THE CONTENTS OF THESE SEALED GIRLIE MAGAZINES, YOU'RE USUALLY LET DOWN.
SO, ARE YOU DISAPPOINTED, PERRY-SAN?
SHIKORA
SEALED

- PANDORA'S BOX
- E-MAIL WITH VIRUSES
- THE BACK COVER OF THE PSX (THEY WON'T REPAIR IT AFTER THAT)
- SCHOOL GATES (SUSPICIOUS CHARACTERS WILL COME IN)
- CANS OF SURSTRÖMMING (WORLD'S SMELLIEST FOOD)
- YOUR PARENT'S BEDROOM
- THE TRUNK OF A BLACK CAR
- TREPANATION
- RICE COOKERS
- A LARGE CLOTHES HAMPER
- THE DOOR OF A GRASSHOPPER'S CAGE
- OPEN EDUCATION



...I'VE OPENED UP A NEW PAGE IN MY LIFE, YOU MIGHT SAY.

SEEMS PERRY-SAN STILL HASN'T LEARNED HIS LESSON.
PERRY-SAN, THAT'S A BIT MUCH....

SO ARE YOU PERRY, OR ARE YOU PERIL? MAKE UP YOUR MIND!
ER...NO... WELL, YOU SEE...

HOLD ON!

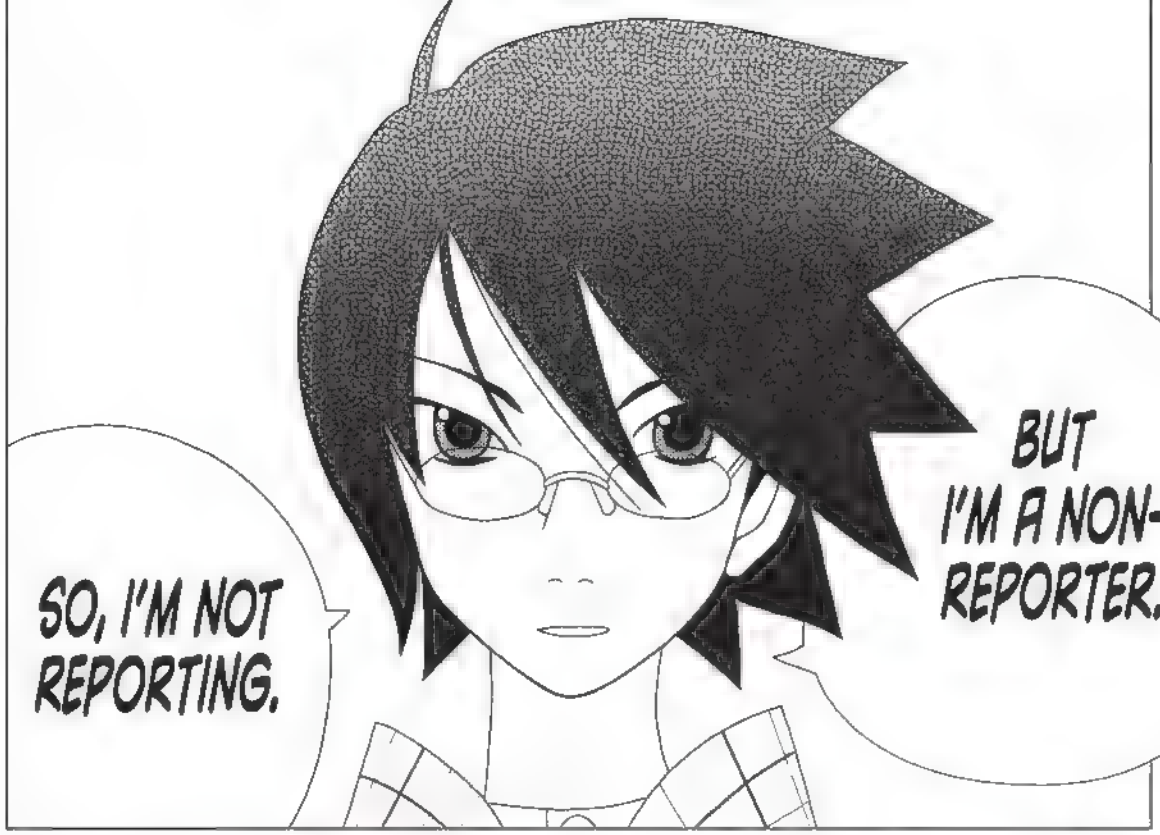
EVEN IF YOU ARE PERRY, THERE'S NO EXCUSE FOR YOU TO USE SUCH A CRAPPY PUNCH LINE!
HA HA HA
SENSEI, SUCH LANGUAGE!

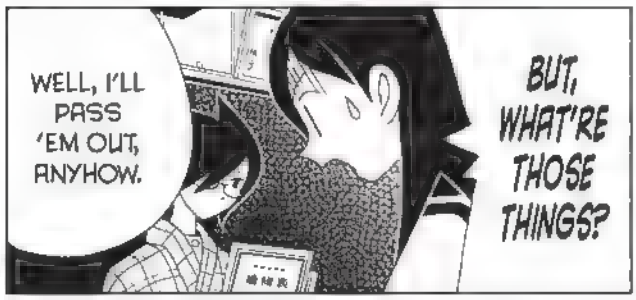
PERRY'S SPECIALTY STORE
THE PERRY SHOP
www.// Perry.com
4580-9624
HE'S PERRY, YET HE'S CLOSING UP.
BLACK SHIP IONS
BLACK SHIP RICE BOWL
PERRY JAPAN!!
PERRYCAN COURIER SERVICE
RAMEN NOODLES
MORON!!
GOING OUT OF BUSINESS
Gimme back my money!!
BLACK SHIP KANTEN
PERRYSTEMIA-0
PERRY...
WHAT WAS HE SELLING, ANYHOW?

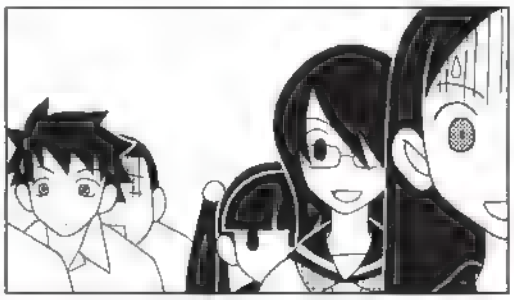
FUMA
FRIDAY 15/10
ONE MISSED CALL
NAME WITHHELD
I-MODE
MAIL
THOU SHALT NOT KNOW

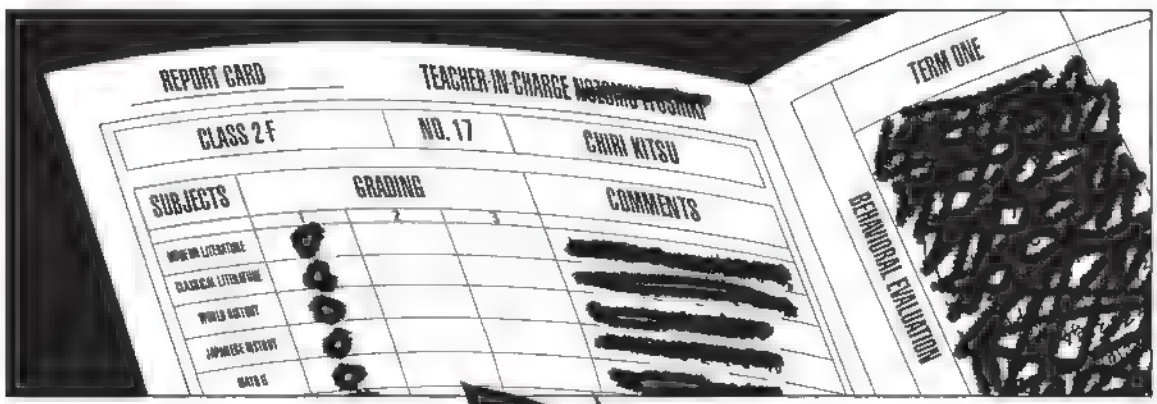
CHAPTER 13

SCHOOL-CLOSING CEREMONY
B-BMP
B-BMP
B-BMP
B-BMP
B-BMP
どぜ
どぜ
どぜ
どぜ
SHOWA 80 REPORT CARDS
CLASS, I KNOW YOU'RE ALL WORRIED ABOUT YOUR REPORT CARDS.


SO, I'M NOT REPORTING.
BUT I'M A NON-REPORTER.


WELL, I'LL PASS 'EM OUT, ANYHOW.
BUT, WHAT'RE THOSE THINGS?




REPORT CARD
TEACHER-IN-CHARGE
CLASS 2 F
NO. 17
CHIRI KITSU
SUBJECTS
GRADING
COMMENTS
TERM ONE
BEHAVIORAL EVALUATION

THAT'S BECAUSE IT'S A NON-REPORT CARD.
I CAN'T READ A THING ON THIS!

...DOESN'T WANT TO KNOW THEIR GRADES ANYHOW.
BASICALLY, ABOUT 80 PERCENT OF THIS CLASS...
.....
ME TOO!
I'M IN FAVOR OF NON-REPORT CARDS!
BUT THAT'S THE TRUTH.
WAIT A MINUTE, GUYS!
MEDICAL NOTICES REQUESTING A SECOND DIAGNOSIS, EVICTION NOTICES...
DEBT COLLECTION NOTICES, ELECTRICITY SHUT-OFF NOTICES,
MOST THINGS THAT ARE REPORTED AREN'T ANY GOOD ANYHOW.
SUMMONS
I'M IN DESPAIR WITH A REPORTING SOCIETY THAT TRIES TO TELL US ALL THAT'S HAPPENING!
I'M IN DESPAIR!

IF THERE'S SUCH A THING AS "*THE RIGHT TO KNOW*"...

...THERE'S ALSO "*THE RIGHT NOT TO KNOW*"!

PRODUCT DESIGNATION: DESSERT
● INGREDIENTS: SUGAR, VEGETABLE OIL, DAIRY PRODUCTS, DEXTRINE STARCH, POWDERED EGG YOLKS, GELLING AGENT, FLAVORINGS, CAROTENE COLORING, EMULSIFIERS
● NET WEIGHT 150G ● REFRIGERATE
● CONSUME QUICKLY AFTER OPENING
● COMPANY: WHOLESALER

THERE WAS THIS PUDDING THAT USED TO BE ONE OF MY FAVORITE FOODS...

I DON'T KNOW WHETHER IT'S ABOUT A MORAL OBLIGATION OR A LEGAL REQUIREMENT, BUT...

DEXTRINE? WHAT'S THAT?

Gelled
Emulsified
DEXTRINE

EMULSIFIER? WHAT'S THAT?

GELLING AGENT? WHAT'S THAT?

...WE'LL ALL BE TOO AFRAID TO GO ANY-WHERE.

BESIDES, NOW THAT THEY'VE REPORTED THE "*DANGEROUS REGIONS OF TOKYO DEATH MAP*"...

I COULD'VE ENJOYED EATING IT IF I HADN'T KNOWN...

I'D MUCH PREFER IT IF THE INGREDIENTS WEREN'T LISTED...

...IS ADVERTISED ELSEWHERE AT AN EVEN *CHEAPER* PRICE! WHEN I FIND OUT, I'M IN DESPAIR!

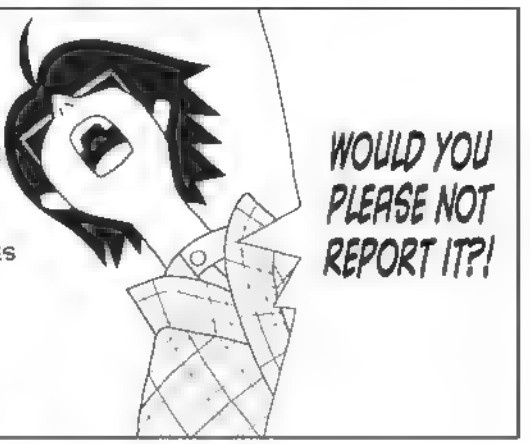
GRAH

SUPER CHEAP PRICE
1980 YEN
KNOW NO EVIL MONKEY

WHAT I THOUGHT I BOUGHT AT A BARGAIN PRICE...

...THAT WE'D BE BETTER OFF NOT KNOWING!
TERRIFYING INSECT THREAT ONE BITE FROM THIS BUG MAY KILL YOU.
BUT IN THIS INFORMATION SOCIETY, WE'RE CONSTANTLY BEING BOMBARDED WITH INFORMATION...

- MISS WORLD'S PLASTIC SURGERY
- WHAT HAPPENED AFTERWARDS WITH THE TRAIN MAN
- PETTY FRAUD COMMITTED BY THE AUTHOR OF *IPPAI NO KAKESOBA*
- STORIES BASED ON THINGS *NOBODY KNEW ABOUT*
- WHERE HORSES WITH BROKEN LEGS GO
- FAMILY REGISTER OF PARENTS AND CHILDREN WHO DON'T LOOK ALIKE
- THE REAL AGES OF INTERNET IDOLS
- INGREDIENTS OF COLAS
- HOW TO MAKE BOMBS
- WHAT'S UNDER THOSE FLOORS THAT USED FAULTY BUILDING PRACTICES
- WHEN SOMEONE YOU LOVE FINDS RELIGION
- THE PEOPLE WEARING THE MICKEY AND DONALD SUITS
- THE TRUE MAXIMUM SPEED OF A COUNTACH
- I THOUGHT I'D BOUGHT AN 86 BUT I GOT AN 85...
- RESULTS OF READERS' SURVEYS
- THE CIRCULATION FIGURES OF THAT MANGA



LOOKING BACK, I REMEMBER WHEN THEY SET UP A NON-REPORTING SYSTEM FOR MY UNCLE!
NOW I GET IT!
...BUT NO ONE TOLD MY UNCLE HIMSELF.
IT'S JUST A COMMON COLD.
AT HOME, EVERYONE KNEW THE TRUTH...
COME TO THINK OF IT, THE WOMAN IN OUR NEIGHBOR-HOOD...
THAT'S JUST SOME-THING THAT YOU DON'T HAVE TO SAY!
WH-WHAT? WHAT DO YOU MEAN, A NON-REPORTING SYSTEM?
THAT WAS A "NON-REPORTING SYSTEM," RIGHT?
THAT'S JUST CALLED A COMMON-LAW MARRIAGE...
THEY DIDN'T REGISTER WITH THE GOVERN-MENT FOR TWENTY YEARS.
...HAD A NON-REPORTED MARRIAGE.

MAN, THIS CREEP'S... GOIN' BA...
WH-WHAT DO YOU MEAN, THE TOP OF MY HEAD?
THE TOP OF YOUR HEAD'S NOT REPORTED, OKAY?
GRAB
KEEP IT UNREPORTED!
IT'S TRUE THAT THERE ARE THINGS THAT ARE BETTER OFF NOT REPORTED.
YOU SEE, IT'S A NON-REPORT...
WHAT'S WRONG WITH IT?
HOW ORDINARY.
I'VE BEEN DISAPPOINTED WHEN MY FRIENDS TOLD ME SPOILERS ABOUT UPCOMING EPISODES OF 24.
Y-YOU WERE HERE?
ALL THIS TIME.
SHWIP
TEACHER, I'M COOPERATING WITH YOUR NON-REPORTING SETUP.
THEN DON'T SAY SUCH ORDINARY THINGS.
DON'T CALL THAT ORDINARY!

YOU CAN'T JUST TAKE MY MAIL WITHOUT PERMISSION!
THEN I READ 'EM, AND THROW 'EM OUT.
I'VE BEEN COLLECTING YOUR MAIL SO THAT YOU DON'T HAVE TO SEE IT.

...I'M OFF TO THE FARAWAY MOUNTAINS, WHERE RADIO WAVES AND NEWSPAPERS CAN'T REACH ME!
ANYHOW, I DON'T WANT TO BE INFORMED ABOUT ANYTHING ANYMORE SO...

...I'LL BE OUT OF REACH OF EVERYTHING.
ガサ SKSH
ガサ SKSH
AS LONG AS I'M THIS FAR AWAY...

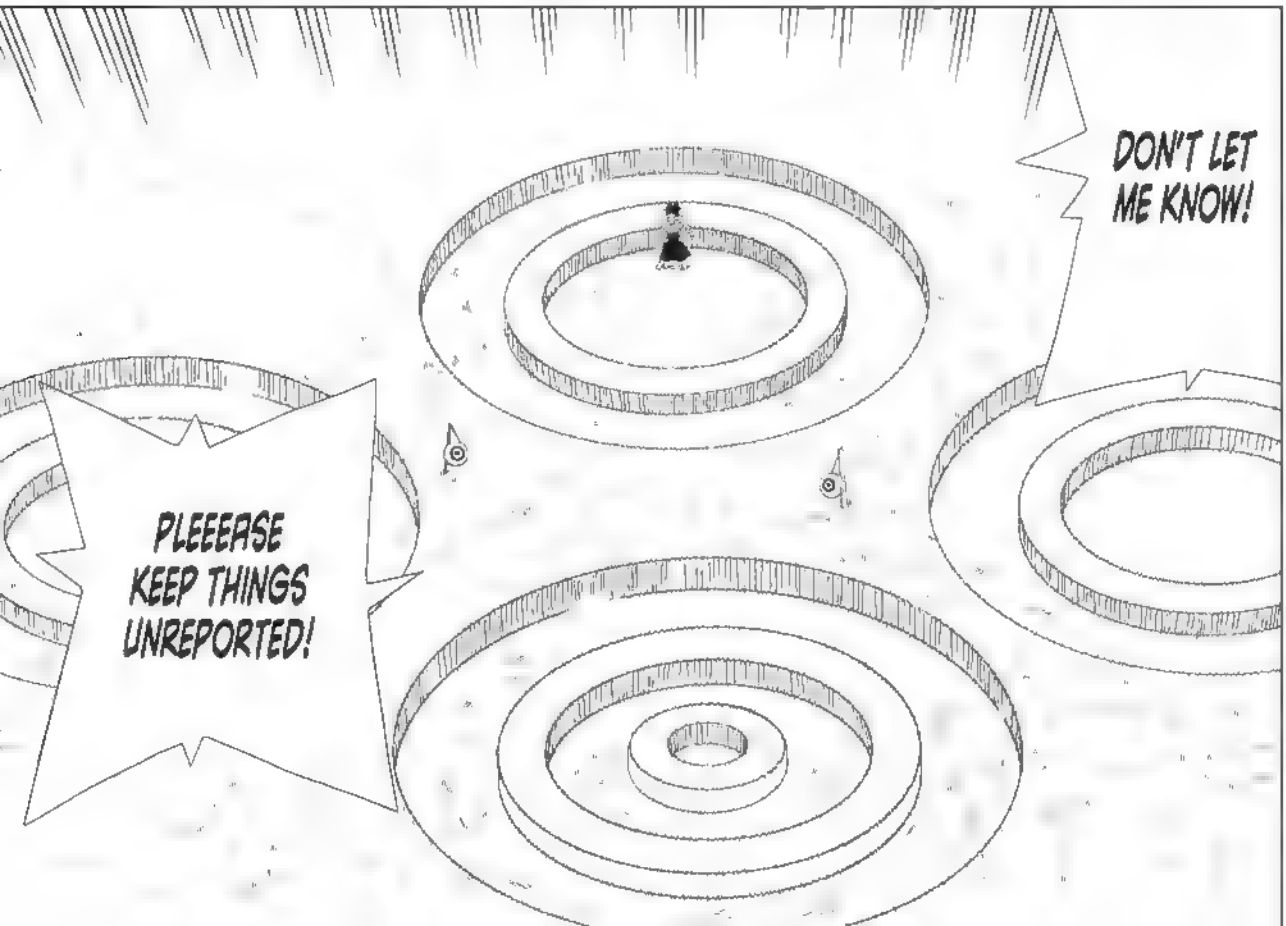
...SOME KIND OF OMEN.
I'VE GOT A BAD FEELING...
THIS IS...
ぴ PING
ーーん

FLAP
ばっさ
ばっさ FLAP
!!
I'VE COME ALL THE WAY HERE! DON'T LET ME KNOW!
DON'T LET ME KNOW!
PLEASE, OMEN!
ガーン GAHH

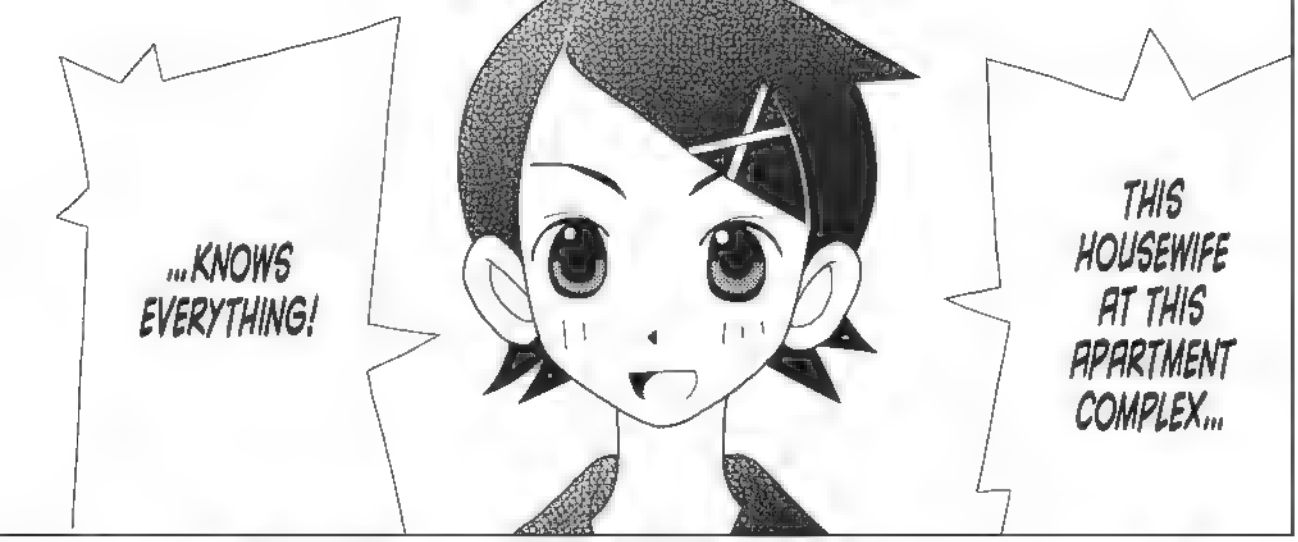
KEEP IT TO YOURSELVES!
THEY'RE TRYING TO TELL ME SOMETHING!
ABNORMAL SUNSPOTS!
ANIMALS ACTING WEIRDLY!

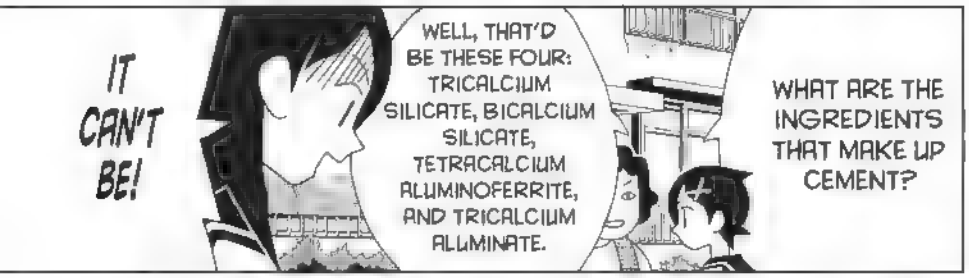
TH-THIS MUST BE...
HMM.

...FROM OUTER SPACE!
A MESSAGE...


DON'T LET ME KNOW!
PLEEEASE KEEP THINGS UNREPORTED!

I THINK I KNOW SOMEONE WHO CAN HELP.
YOU WANT TO KNOW THAT BADLY?
THIS BUGS ME, THIS BUGS ME! I WANT TO KNOW, I WANT TO KNOW!
GEEZ! WE'RE HAVING OUR SCHOOL-CLOSING CEREMONY AND OUR TEACHER'S DISAPPEARED.
AND WE DON'T EVEN KNOW OUR GRADES!
THIS APARTMENT BUILDING...
HEY, HEY. HAVE YOU HEARD THIS ONE?
THERE'S SOMEONE AROUND HERE THAT'LL KNOW?
YOU KNOW WHAT ELSE? SATO-SAN'S HUSBAND FINALLY GOT TRANSFERRED TO THE SUBSIDIARY COMPANY.
OH MY! まーっ
I HEAR THAT YAMAKAWA-SAN'S SON DROPPED OUTTA HIGH SCHOOL.
まーっ OH MY!
SEEMS KATAYAMA-SAN'S WIFE IS HAVING AN AFFAIR WITH THE OWNER OF THAT CLEANING COMPANY.


...KNOWS EVERYTHING!
THIS HOUSEWIFE AT THIS APARTMENT COMPLEX...


IT CAN'T BE!
WELL, THAT'D BE THESE FOUR: TRICALCIUM SILICATE, BICALCIUM SILICATE, TETRACALCIUM ALUMINOFERRITE, AND TRICALCIUM ALUMINATE.
WHAT ARE THE INGREDIENTS THAT MAKE UP CEMENT?

OH, I BET SHE JUST LIKES TO GOSSIP.

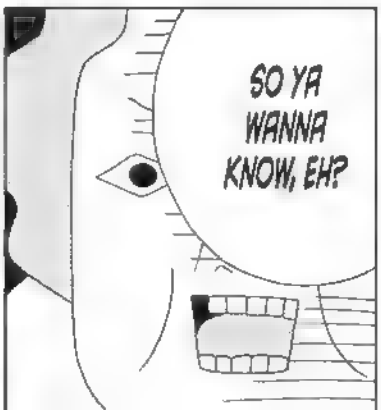
.....
I'D RATHER HAVE GOTTEN ALL FOUR'S!
WHY DID I GET A FOUR ON JUST ONE OF THEM? THINGS LIKE THIS DRIVE ME CRAZY!

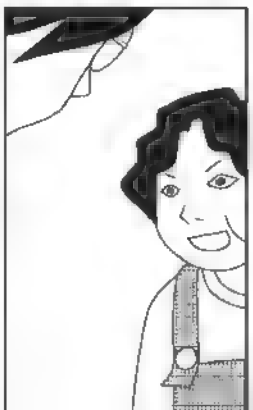
CURRENT AFFAIRS-5, CLASSICAL LITERATURE-5, SOCIAL STUDIES-4, [illegible] LANGUAGE-5, MATH-5, SCIENCE-5, ENGLISH-5, PHYS. ED.-5, ART-5.
CAN YOU TELL ME MY GRADES FOR THIS LAST TERM?

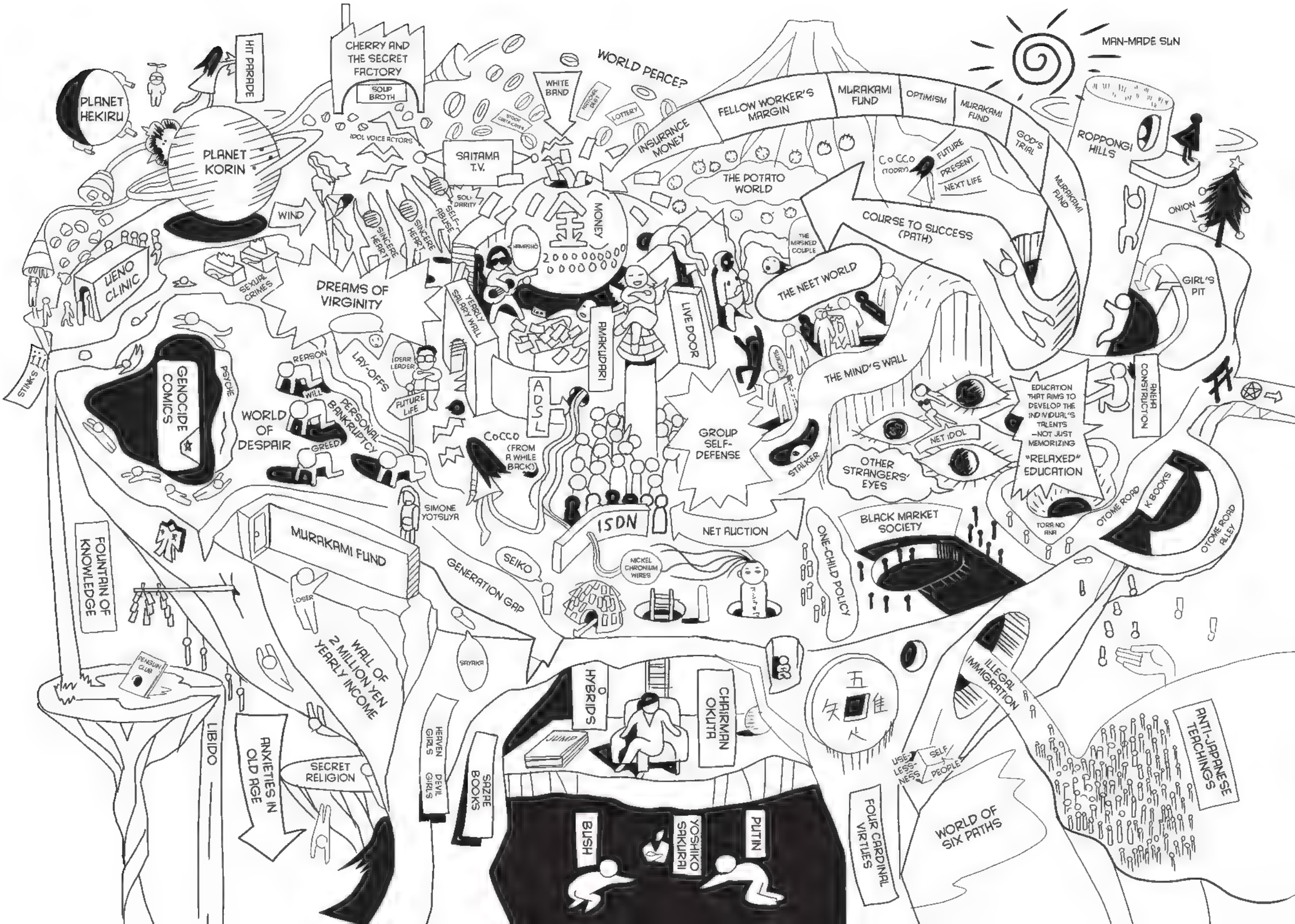
I WANT TO KNOW THE TRUTH OF THE UNIVERSE!

IF I GET INFORMATION NO MATTER WHERE I GO, I FIGURED I MIGHT AS WELL COME HERE...
SENSEI, I SEE YOU'VE RETURNED FROM THE MOUNTAINS.

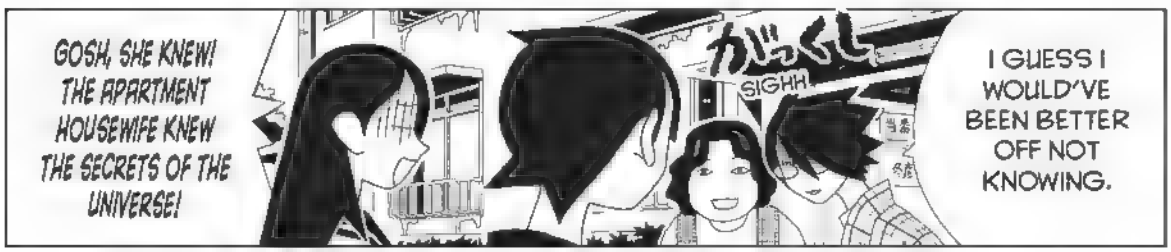
カッーン
カッーン
KLANNG
KLANNG
FOLLOW ME.


SO YA WANNA KNOW, EH?

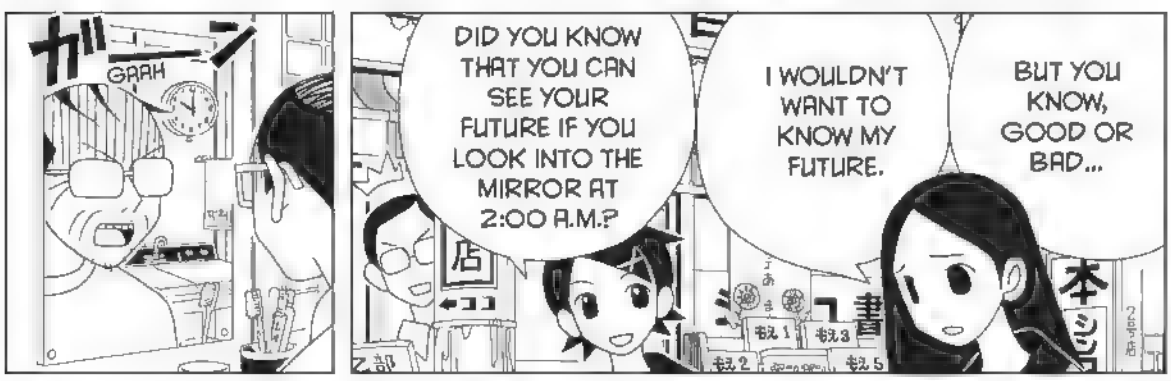



PLANET HEKIRU
HIT PARADE
PLANET KORIN
CHERRY AND THE SECRET FACTORY
SOUP BROTH
IDOL VOICE ACTORS
WORLD PEACE?
WHITE BAND
STOCK LOSS CUTS
MUTUAL DEBT
LOTTERY
SAITAMA T.V.
INSURANCE MONEY
FELLOW WORKER'S MARGIN
MURAKAMI FUND
OPTIMISM
MURAKAMI FUND
GOD'S TRIAL
MURAKAMI FUND
MAN-MADE SUN
ROPPONGI HILLS
ONION
GIRL'S PIT
CoCCo (TODAY)
FUTURE
PRESENT
NEXT LIFE
THE POTATO WORLD
COURSE TO SUCCESS (PATH)
THE MASKED COUPLE
THE NEET WORLD
WIND
SINCERE HEART
SINCERE HEART
SELF-ABUSE
SOLIDARITY
HIKIKOMORI
MONEY
UENO CLINIC
SEXUAL CRIMES
DREAMS OF VIRGINITY
YEARLY SALARY WALL
AMAKUDARI
LIVE DOOR
STINKS
GENOCIDE COMICS
PSYCHE
REASON
WILL
GREED
WORLD OF DESPAIR
PERSONAL BANKRUPTCY
LAY-OFFS
DEAR LEADER
FUTURE LIFE
ADSL
CoCCo (FROM A WHILE BACK)
GROUP SELF-DEFENSE
SUICIDES
THE MIND'S WALL
STALKER
EDUCATION THAT AIMS TO DEVELOP THE INDIVIDUAL'S TALENTS —NOT JUST MEMORIZING
"RELAXED" EDUCATION
NET IDOL
OTHER STRANGERS' EYES
CINEMA CONSTRUCTION
TORA NO ANA
OTOME ROAD
K BOOKS
OTOME ROAD ALLEY
SIMONE YOTSUYA
MURAKAMI FUND
LOSER
FOUNTAIN OF KNOWLEDGE
WALL OF 2 MILLION YEN YEARLY INCOME
GENERATION GAP
SEIKO
ISDN
NET AUCTION
NICKEL CHROMIUM WIRES
ONE-CHILD POLICY
BLACK MARKET SOCIETY
SAYAKA
PENGUIN CLUB
LIBIDO
ANXIETIES IN OLD AGE
SECRET RELIGION
HYBRIDS
JUMP
CHAIRMAN OKUTA
HEAVEN GIRLS
DEVIL GIRLS
SAZAE BOOKS
BUSH
YOSHIKO SAKURAI
PUTIN
五
知
佳
矢
火
USE-LESS-NESS
SELF
PEOPLE
FOUR CARDINAL VIRTUES
ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION
ANTI-JAPANESE TEACHINGS
WORLD OF SIX PATHS

...THE TRUTH OF THE UNIVERSE?!
THIS IS...

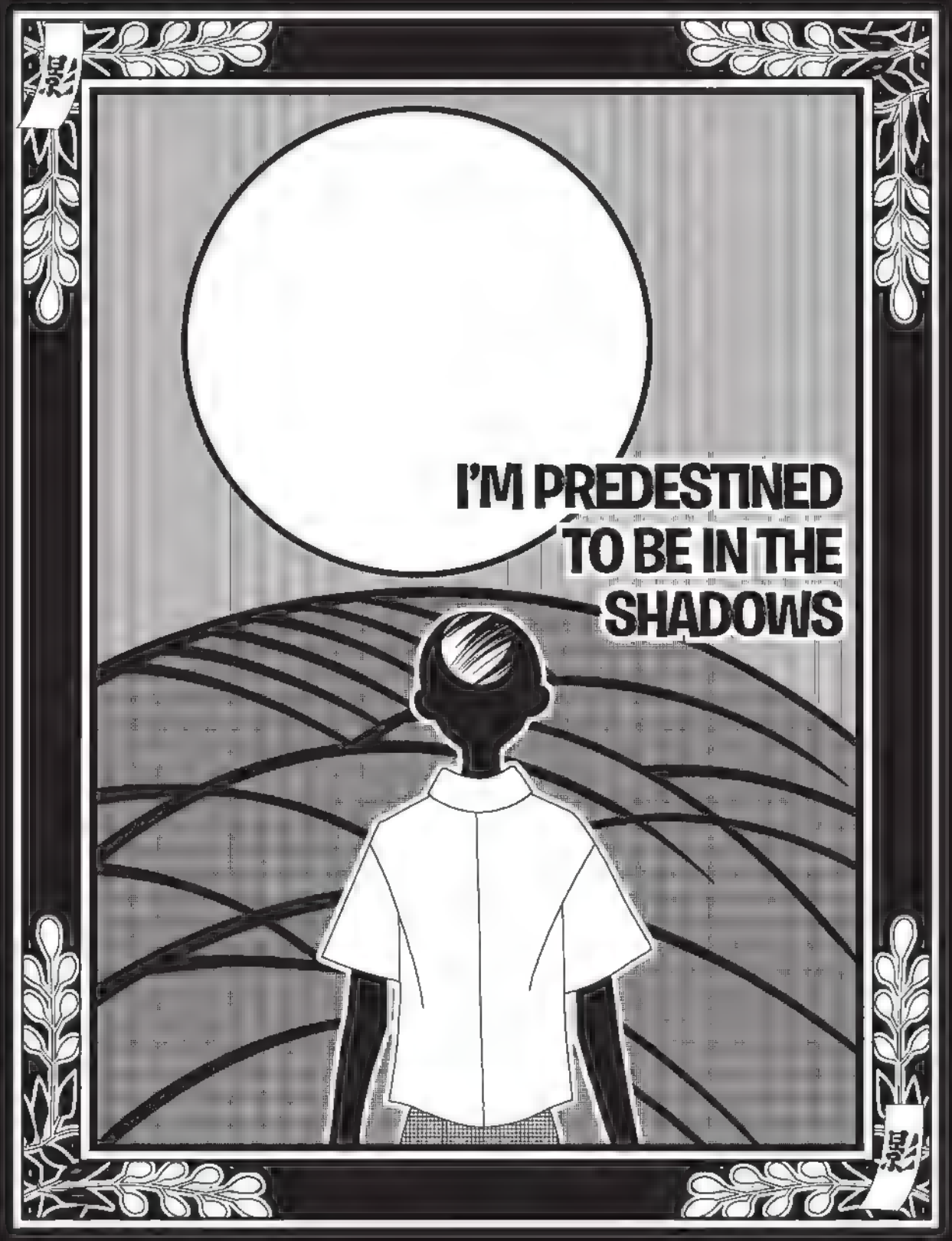

GOSH, SHE KNEW! THE APARTMENT HOUSEWIFE KNEW THE SECRETS OF THE UNIVERSE!
がっくし
SIGHH
I GUESS I WOULD'VE BEEN BETTER OFF NOT KNOWING.

I'D LIKE TO BE A PERSON WHO KNOWS WHERE UNSOLD PETS END UP!
SOMEDAY, I'D LIKE TO BE SOMEONE THAT KNOWS EVERYTHING, JUST LIKE THAT LADY!


ガーン
GRAH
DID YOU KNOW THAT YOU CAN SEE YOUR FUTURE IF YOU LOOK INTO THE MIRROR AT 2:00 A.M.?
I WOULDN'T WANT TO KNOW MY FUTURE.
BUT YOU KNOW, GOOD OR BAD...
店
本
もえ1
もえ2
もえ3
もえ5

YOU WOULDN'T WANT TO KNOW WHERE UNSOLD MANGA LEFTOVERS END UP....

WISH PEOPLE'D BUY FROM THEM.



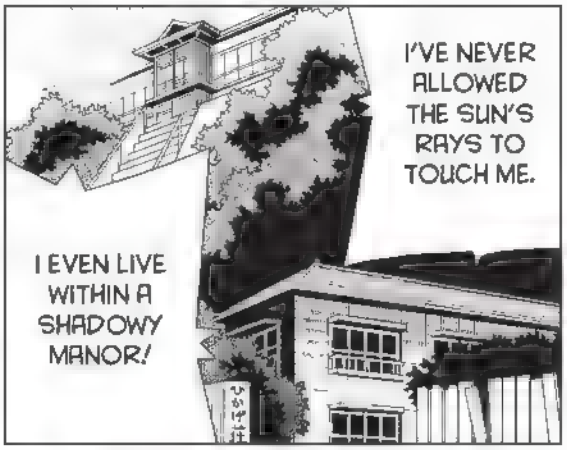
CHAPTER 14

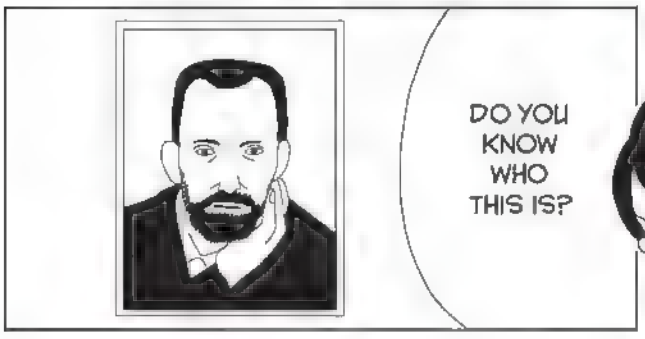
じーっ
KEEE
KEEE
WOW! IT'S SO SUNNY TODAY!
I'LL GET A SUNBURN.
LET'S WALK IN THE SHADE...
DON'T YOU ENTER MY SHADY SPOT!
BUMP
どんっ
OH MY!
SUMMER IS PLEASANT, ISN'T IT...

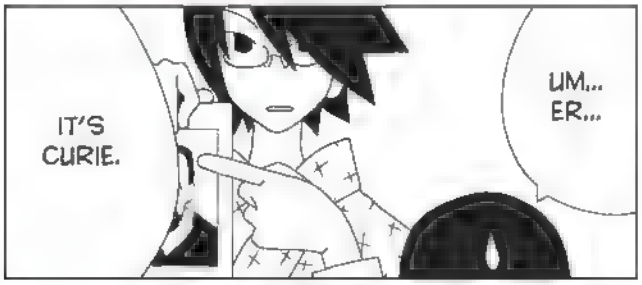
I CAN BOLDLY WALK IN THE SHADE...
FOR I'M A *MAN WHO BELONGS IN THE SHADOWS!*
AN OUTCAST SHOULD DWELL IN THE SHADOWS.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING THERE, SENSEI?
WE'RE ON OUR WAY HOME FROM THE LIBRARY.
ANYWAY, WHAT ARE *YOU TWO* DOING HERE, BARGING INTO MY SHADE LIKE THIS?

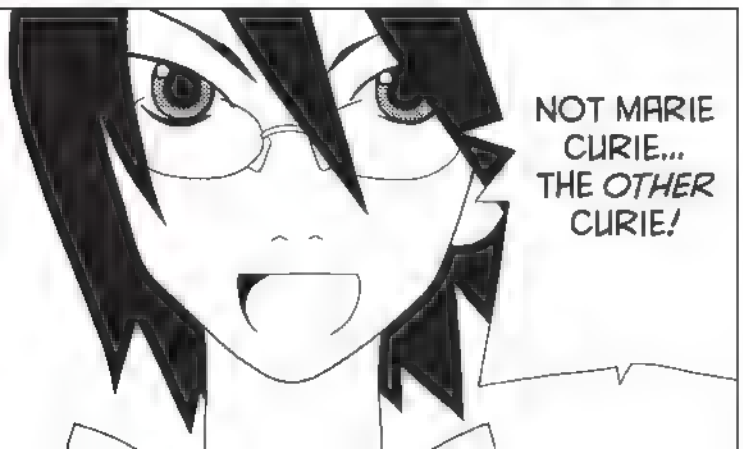
NOW, AND IN THE FUTURE, I'LL ALWAYS LIVE LIFE IN THE SHADOWS.
ALL MY LIFE, I'VE WALKED IN THE SHADE.

HUH?
DON'T BE SO HARD ON YOURSELF. WHY DON'T YOU MAKE AN EFFORT TO GET OUT IN THE SUN?


I'VE NEVER ALLOWED THE SUN'S RAYS TO TOUCH ME.
I EVEN LIVE WITHIN A SHADOWY MANOR!


DO YOU KNOW WHO THIS IS?


IT'S CURIE.
UM... ER...


NOT MARIE CURIE... THE *OTHER* CURIE!

BUT THIS IS THE *FATE* OF A MAN IN THE SHADOWS.
NO MATTER HOW HARD YOU TRY, OR IF YOU STRIVE TO LEAVE A MARK ON THE WORLD, THE SUN WON'T SHINE ON YOU.

MADAME MARIE CURIE WAS SO FAMOUS THAT FEW PEOPLE KNOW THIS...

...BUT HER HUSBAND, PIERRE CURIE, ALSO RECEIVED THE NOBEL PRIZE!

NOT JUST THAT...

CURIE'S DAUGHTER, IRÈNE, AND HER HUSBAND, JORIOT, *ALSO* RECEIVED NOBEL PRIZES!

THEY ALL WERE IN THE SHADOW OF MADAME CURIE AND WERE FORGOTTEN!

EVEN IF THEY RECEIVE NOBEL PRIZES...

...SHADOWY OUTCASTS ARE SHADOWY OUTCASTS!

THAT'S TRUE...

SOME PEOPLE CAN BE SO REMARKABLE, AND YET GET HIDDEN IN THE SHADOWS.

THAT'S CORRECT.

OKITA, HIJIKATA, AND KONDO WERE SO FAMOUS...

...THAT KANICHIRO YOSHIMURA, THE STRONGEST IN THE SHINSENGUMI, WAS HIDDEN IN THE SHADOWS.

THE POPULATION OF CHINA IS SO IMMENSE (1.3 BILLION PEOPLE)...

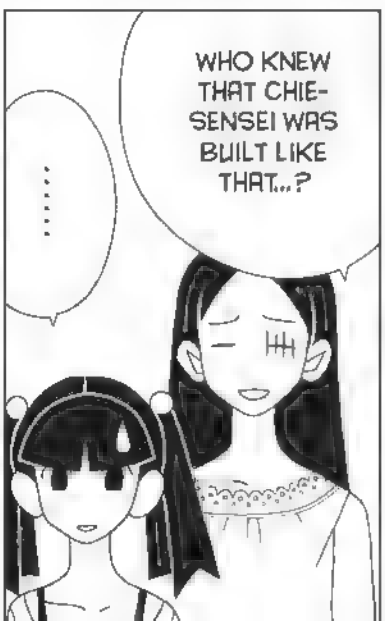
...THAT THE ENORMITY OF INDIA'S POPULATION (1 BILLION) IS LOST IN THE SHADOWS.

REMARKABLE, YET LOST IN THE SHADOWS!
NOMURA – 657 BASE HITS
OH – 868 BASE HITS
KURIBEN (THE STRONGEST EARTHLING)
THE STRENGTH OF THE SAIYANS
THE DEATH OF TONI TANI
THE DEATH OF YUJIRO
THE ACTING ABILITIES OF THE OLDER CATHY IN WUTHERING HEIGHTS
THE ACTING ABILITIES OF THE YOUNG CATHY IN WUTHERING HEIGHTS
KIKUTA KIMURA, THE BASEBALL PLAYER
TAKUYA KIMURA OF SMAP
KIDS OF KIN-KI
KIDS OF SOCCER
MADAME DEWI'S HUSBAND
MADAME DEWI
FATHER'S DEATH
SIBLING RIVALRY
IN DESPAIR WITH A SOCIETY WHERE SUCH REMARKABLE THINGS CAN BE OVERSHADOWED!
I'M IN DESPAIR!
PUBLIC POOL
LOOK OVER THERE...
IF YOU STARE TOO MUCH, I'LL SUE YOU.
WHOAA
WHEE! WHOO!
EH?
SHAA
PUBLIC
POOL

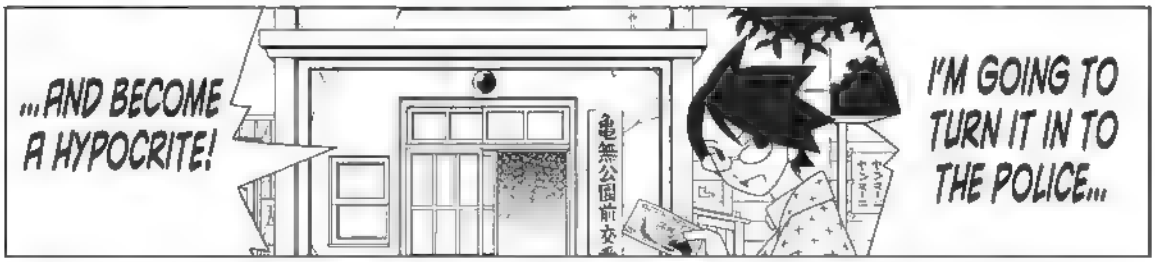
IN THE SHADOW OF BOOBS!
KAERE'S PRETTY AMAZING, BUT SHE'S BEEN OVERSHADOWED!

どよんど
FIZZLE
.....

WHAT'S THIS HANDSHAKE SUPPOSED TO MEAN?!
がしっ
GRIP

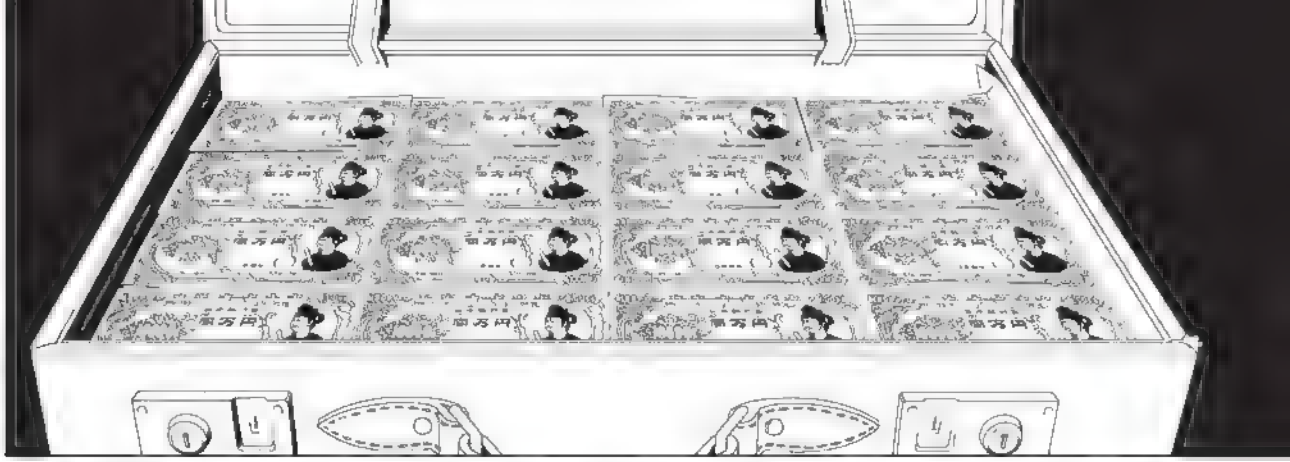

WHO KNEW THAT CHIE-SENSEI WAS BUILT LIKE THAT...?
.....

I FOUND A 1,000 YEN NOTE.
ARE YOU OKAY, SENSEI?
WHOA!


...AND BECOME A HYPOCRITE!
I'M GOING TO TURN IT IN TO THE POLICE...

I'M SURE YOU SET A FINE EXAMPLE FOR OUR YOUTH.
SENSEI, YOU'RE AN HONEST MAN.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR EFFORTS.

MAYBE A LITTLE LIGHT WILL SHINE ON ME NOW.
HONEST TEACHER SETS GOOD EXAMPLE
HMM.
1000
THE HONEST ITOSHIKI-SENSEI
REMEMBER, WE SHOULD ALL TRY TO BE LIKE ITOSHIKI
AN EXAMPLE FOR OUR YOUTH
AYAYA'S SISTER LEGAL THIS YEAR?
LOSES AGAIN
EXCUSE ME, BUT...
...I FOUND THIS IN A BAMBOO GROVE.



ER... WHAT ABOUT THIS?

HEAD-QUARTERS? COULD YOU PLEASE SEND SOME HELP HERE RIGHT AWAY!

WELL DONE! BRILLIANT JOB OF GETTING OVER-SHADOWED.
どよんど
FIZZLE

UH... YOU CAN KEEP IT.

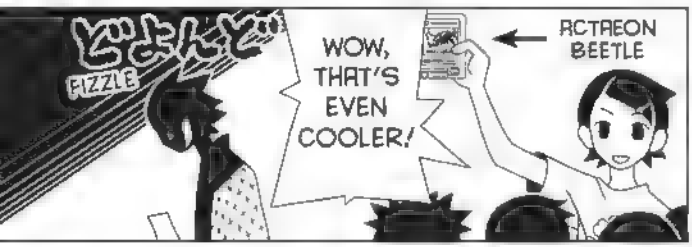
OVER-SHADOWED INTENTIONS...
MY GOOD INTENTIONS HAVE BEEN OVER-SHADOWED.

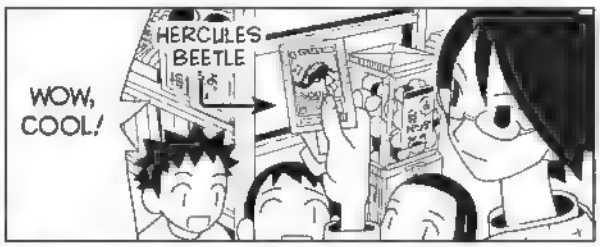
KLANGA
ジャラ
KLANGA
ジャラ

KLANGA
ジャラ
ジャラ
KLANGA

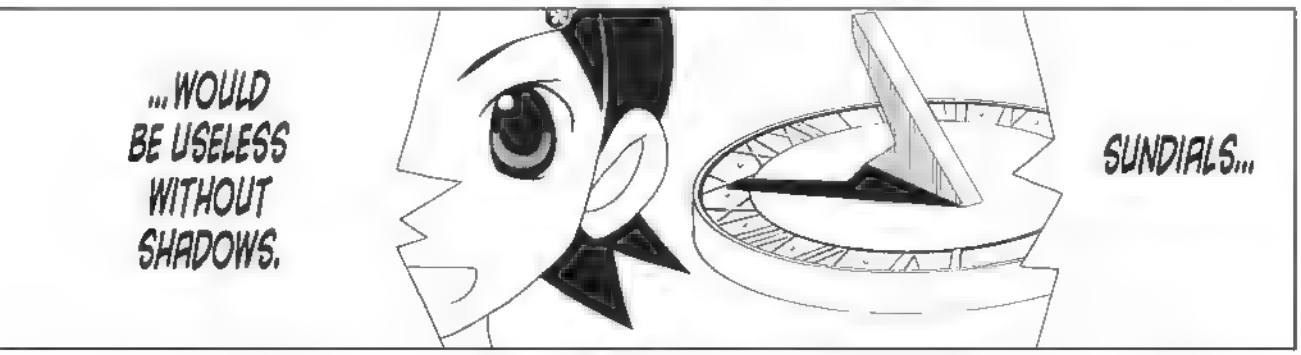
DASH
ダッ
I'M KEEPING THE MONEY!

*PACHINKO IS PROHIBITED FOR ANYONE UNDER AGE EIGHTEEN.





IT'S YOU, TEACHER, WHO'S UNAWARE OF THE FABULOUSNESS OF SHADOWS.
BUT, THE SHADOW IS FINE...
AND ON PURPOSE, I BET!
YOU'RE CONTINUALLY OVERSHADOWING ME, AREN'T YOU?!



BECAUSE THERE'S A SHADOW IN THE MOON, LUM-CHAN CAN SIT ON A CRESCENT MOON.
BECAUSE OF KAGEMAN, CRIMINALS GET CAUGHT.
SHADOWS MAKE THE WORLD GO 'ROUND!
BECAUSE SHADOWS EXIST, WE CAN DRY CLOTHES IN THE SHADE.
BECAUSE THERE ARE SHADOWS IN THE FOREST, ELVES CAN DANCE THE *DONJARAHOI.*

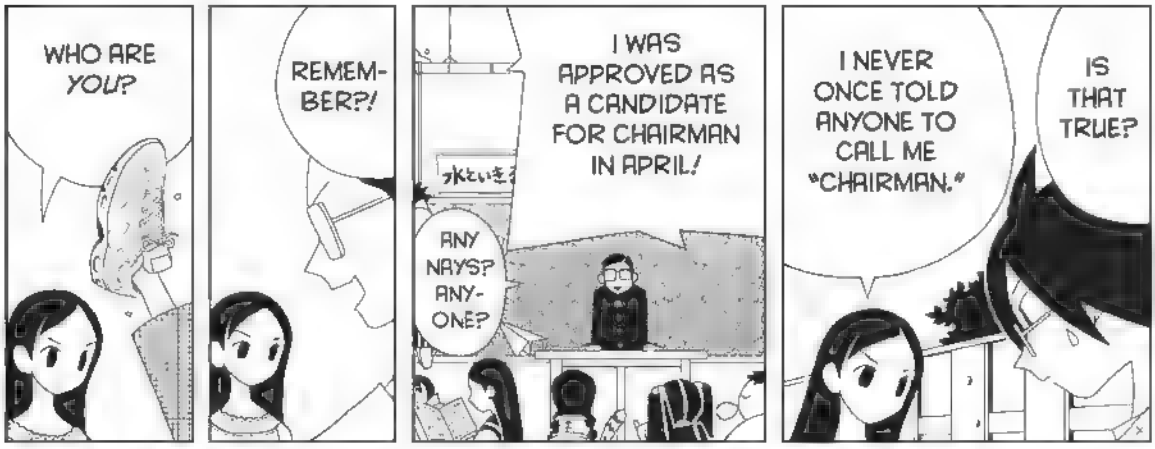
ぱっ
PLIP
WHO ARE YOU?

ぼやりん
BLURRR
I CAN'T TELL BECAUSE THE SHADOW'S TOO NONDESCRIPT.

THIS GUY GOES TO OUR SCHOOL?
WHY'VE YOU BEEN IGNORING ME BACK THERE?
WHO AM I?! I'M USUI, THE CHAIRMAN OF YOUR CLASS!

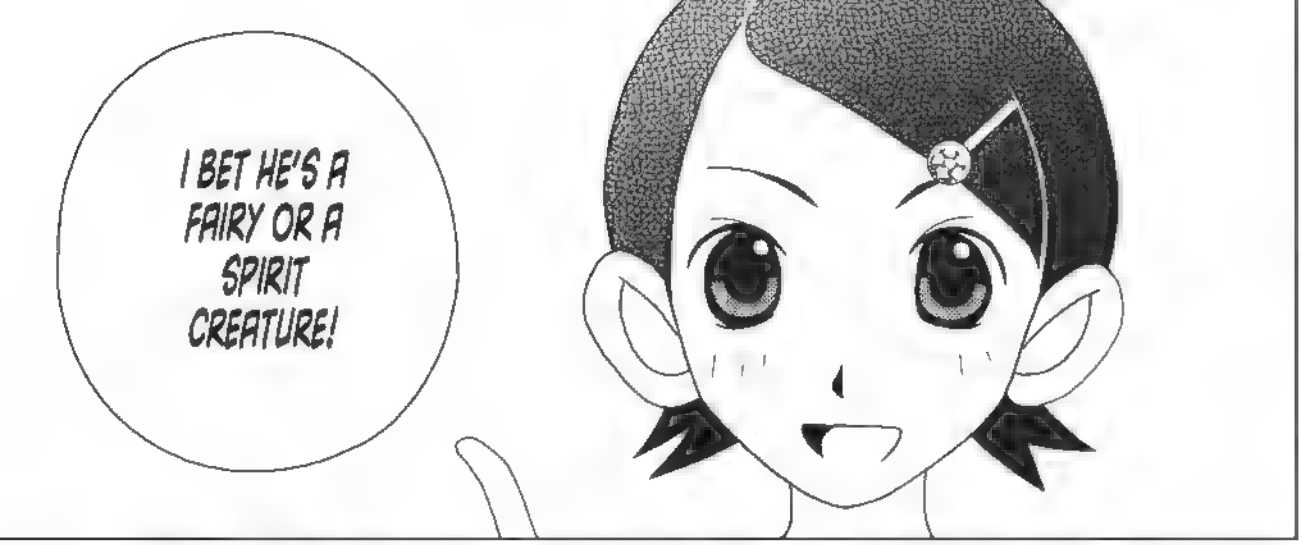
I'M THE REAL CHAIR-MAN!
EVERYONE CALLS KITSU-SAN "CHAIR-MAN" BECAUSE SHE'S GOT A CHAIRMAN-ISH LOOK... THAT'S ALL!

CHAIRMAN?... I THOUGHT YOU WERE THE CHAIR-MAN.


WHO ARE YOU?
REMEM-BER?!
I WAS APPROVED AS A CANDIDATE FOR CHAIRMAN IN APRIL!
ANY NAYS? ANY-ONE?
I NEVER ONCE TOLD ANYONE TO CALL ME "CHAIRMAN."
IS THAT TRUE?

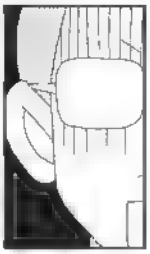
GOSH. IT'S NOT POSSIBLE THAT A HUMAN BEING COULD BE SO SHADOWY AS TO BE UNNOTICEABLE.

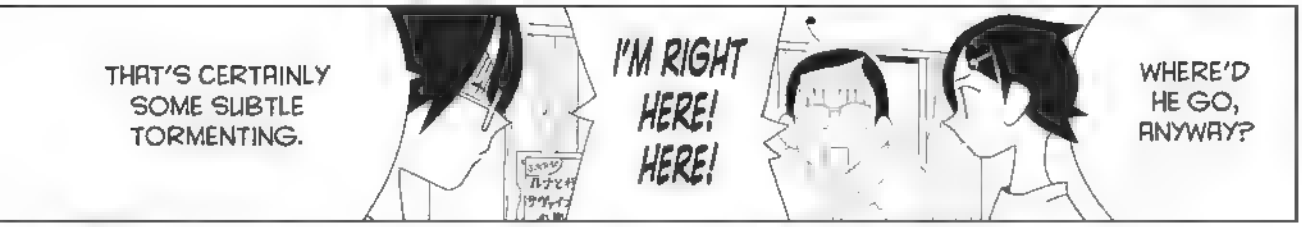
HAZY
ゆら
HAZY
ゆら


I BET HE'S A FAIRY OR A SPIRIT CREATURE!

IT COULD BE THAT MY SOUL'S STILL AT A LOWER STAGE, SO I CAN ONLY SEE HIM OCCASIONALLY.

SOME PEOPLE JUST CAN'T SEE HIS PRES-ENCE.
THAT WOULD EXPLAIN A LOT.




THAT'S CERTAINLY SOME SUBTLE TORMENTING.
I'M RIGHT HERE! HERE!
WHERE'D HE GO, ANYWAY?

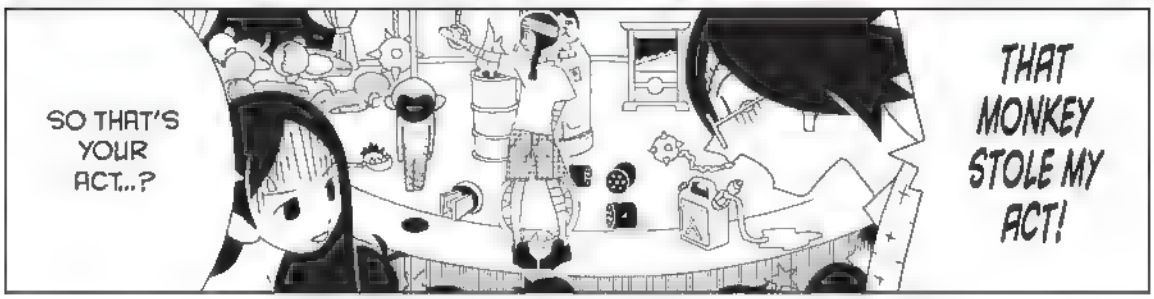
WHERE THERE'S LIGHT, THERE'S SHADOW.

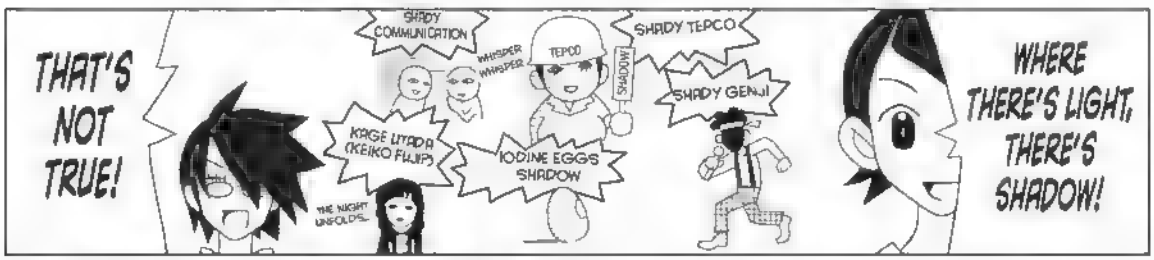
...THAN A NEBULOUS, BLURRED-OUT, NONDESCRIPT PERSON LIKE THIS!
I'D MUCH RATHER BE A SHADOWY OUTCAST...

THEIR PERFORMANCE STYLE IS A BIT ON THE DARK SIDE, THOUGH.
SHADOW MONKEY TROUPE?

BUT MOST PEOPLE DON'T EVEN KNOW THERE'S A *SHADOW MONKEY TROUPE*. THEY'RE OVERSHADOWED BY THE OTHERS!
YOU KNOW THE *SUNLIGHT MONKEY TROUPE*? SURE, EVERYONE DOES.
やんや
YAAY
やんや
YAAY

ぷらーん
DANGLE
REFLECT ON YOUR MISDEEDS.


SO THAT'S YOUR ACT...?
THAT MONKEY STOLE MY ACT!

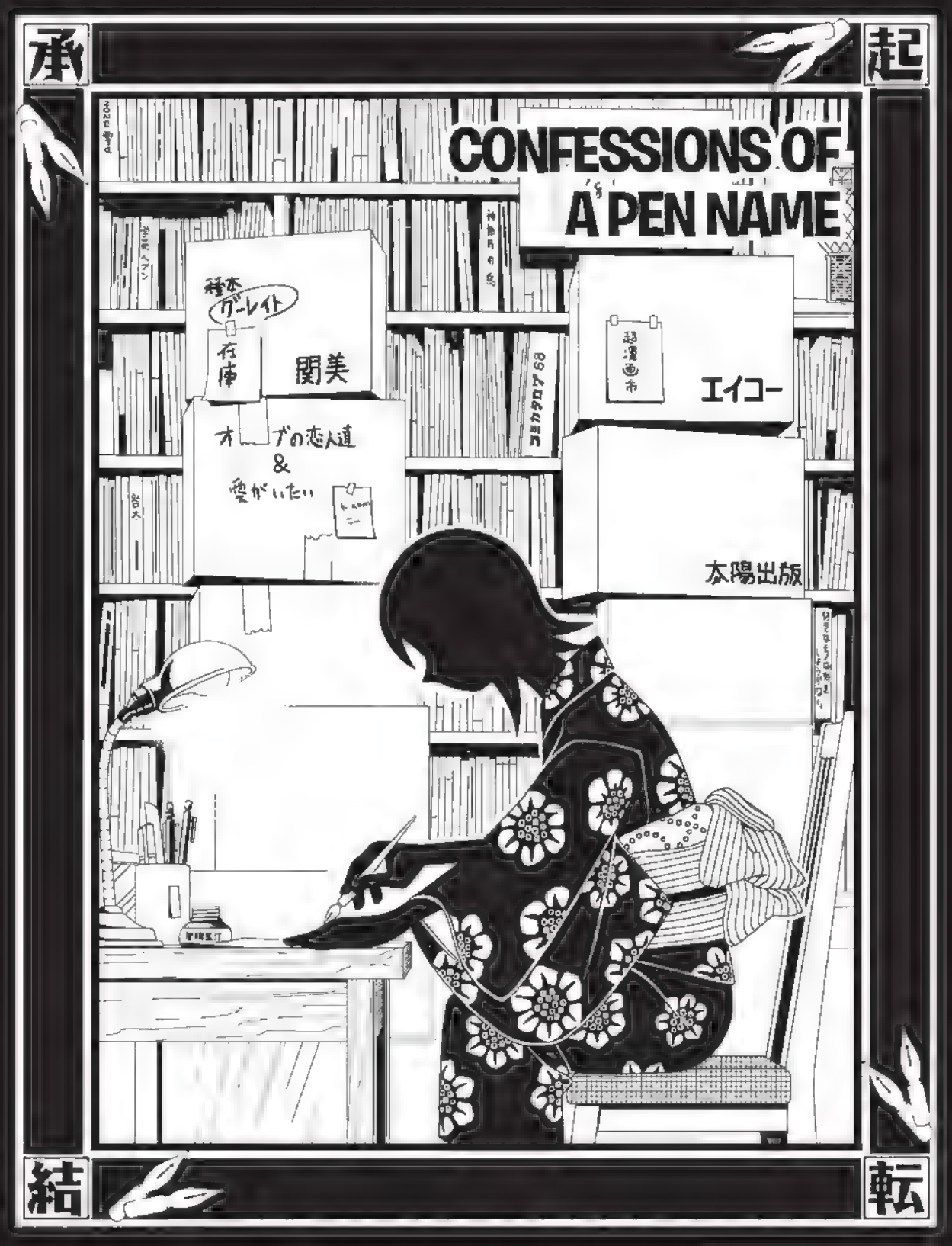

THAT'S NOT TRUE!
SHADY COMMUNICATION
WHISPER WHISPER
TEPCO
SHADOW
SHADY TEPCO
SHADY GENJI
KAGE UTADA (KEIKO FUJI)
IODINE EGGS SHADOW
THE NIGHT UNFOLDS...
WHERE THERE'S LIGHT, THERE'S SHADOW!

NAUGHTY KID.
めりっ
KA-POW
"STOMP THE SHADOW."

HEY! MARIA LEARNED A NEW GAME!

ATTENDANCE LIST
CLASS 2-F

ATTENDANCE NO. 3
KAGERO USUI
CHAIRMAN
LACKING BOTH HAIR AND PRESENCE

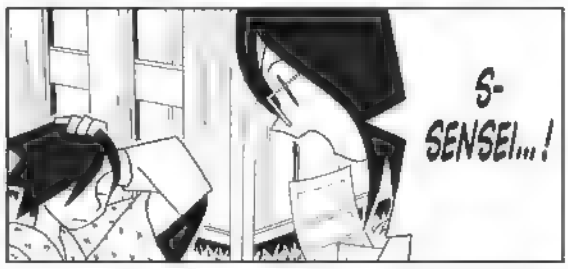

起
承
転
結
CONFESSIONS OF A PEN NAME
神様日和
コミカタログ68
エイコー
太陽出版
関美
オ…ブの恋人達
&
愛がいたい

CHAPTER 15

SCRIB SCRIB
SCRIB
I'D BETTER GO MAKE COPIES!
M12 13
夏祭
WHAM
ドカ
BAM

BAMM!

ぼーっ
BLURR


S-SENSEI...!

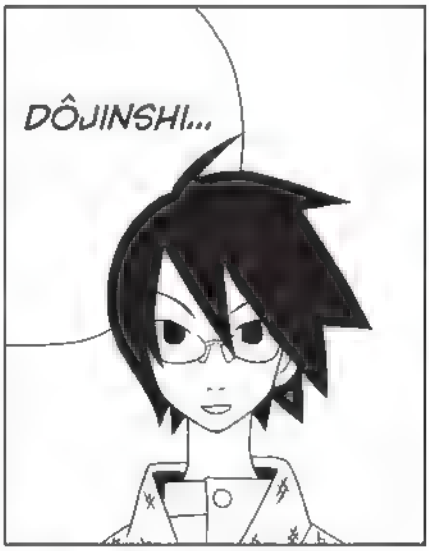
YOU SAW THEM, DIDN'T YOU?!
YOU SAW THEM!

BUT SINCE YOU ALREADY SAW THEM, I GUESS I HAVE TO TELL YOU.

UM... ER... OKAY...
PROMISE YOU WON'T TELL ANYONE, OKAY?!

THESE ARE MY LATEST PAGES.
I'M MAKING DÔJINSHI.

THERE'S NOTHING TO BE ASHAMED OF.
IT'S NOT A HOBBY THAT I CAN JUST TELL ANYONE ABOUT...


DÔJINSHI...

YOU MAKE DÔJINSHI...
SO, I SEE.

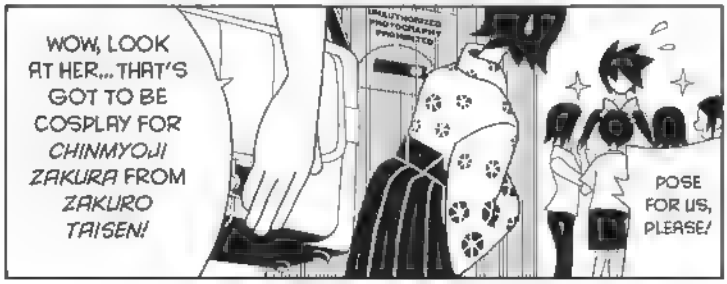
IS IT THE ARARAGI SCHOOL?
OR IS IT THE SHIRAKABA MOVEMENT?

HMM... THE ASUKAGA SCHOOL. I'M NOT FAMILIAR WITH THAT ONE.
IF I HAD TO SAY, IT'S ATHR X CAGA.
ARA X RAGI?
HUH?
ACTUALLY, WHEN I WAS A STUDENT, I USED TO DO DÔJINSHI TOO.
WHO WOULD'VE THOUGHT?
SO YOU DO DÔJINSHI...
YOU USED TO DO DÔJINSHI, SENSEI...
WELL THEN, SENSEI, WHY DON'T YOU COME AND JOIN US?
FUJIYOSHI-SAN'S IDEA OF DÔJINSHI
ZETSUBOU-SENSEI'S IDEA OF DÔJINSHI
AS THE READER IS PROBABLY AWARE, THESE TWO HAVE COMPLETELY DIFFERENT CONCEPTS OF "DÔJINSHI."

WHAT EXCITEMENT! WHAT ENERGY!
I NEVER IMAGINED THERE WAS SUCH A SURGE OF ENTHUSIASM IN THE LITERARY WORLD.
OH!
YOU'RE...
YES?
YOU'RE COSPLAYING *RUROUNI KENSHIN*, AREN'T YOU?
HUH?
CAN I PLEASE TAKE YOUR PHOTO?

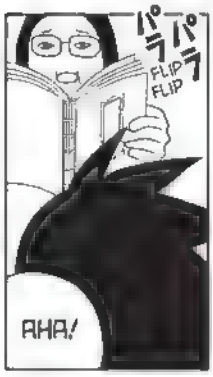
ME TOO!
PLEASE, LET ME TAKE ONE TOO!

カシャ
CLICK


WOW, LOOK AT HER... THAT'S GOT TO BE COSPLAY FOR CHINMYOJI ZAKURA FROM ZAKURO TAISEN!
POSE FOR US, PLEASE!

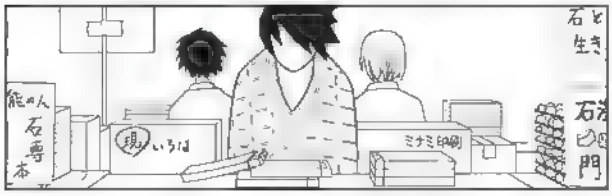
WHAT'S GOING ON? WHAT'S GOING ON?
WHA...
NOW, LOOK AT THE CAMERA!

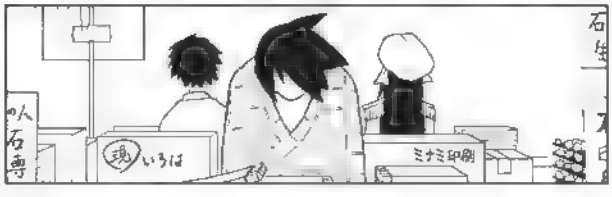
CAN I TAKE JUST ONE SHOT?
HUH?

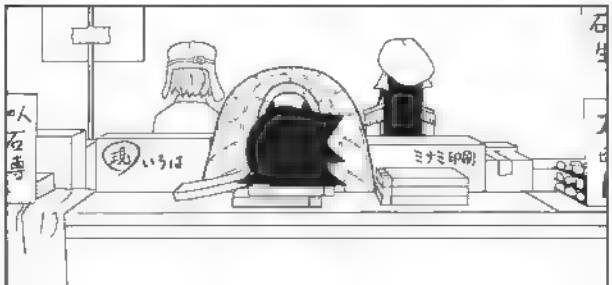

パラパラ
FLIP FLIP
AHA!

PHEW...
すっ
SWISH

WH... WHAT COULD BE HAPPENING OVER THERE?
GLANCE
ふらっ







GAHH
ガーン
TOSS
ぽいっ

EH?
I'D LIKE ONE OF THESE, PLEASE.
I HAVEN'T SOLD EVEN ONE BOOK.
I GUESS THIS MEANS I DON'T HAVE ANY LITERARY TALENT.
OH, THANK YOU.
YOU MEAN YOU'RE BUYING IT?
TEARS
ぽろ
AHA! YOU WERE TRYING TO GET A FOOTHOLD IN MY HEART JUST THEN, WEREN'T YOU?
GASP!
I ADORE YOU!!!
がばっ
HUG
THAT WAS CLOSE!

HUH?
GRR
GRR
イライラ
MAY I TAKE A LOOK?
新刊
太陽
ANALUTO, KONARUTO
GO RIGHT AHEAD.
ANALUTO, KONARUTO
スケブOK!!
Copies 300 yen each
...WRITING SUCH NONSENSE!
HMPH
THERE YOU GO AGAIN...
THESE MANGA HAVE NO CLEAR KI-SHO-TEN-KETSU—SETUP, DEVELOPMENT, TWIST, AND CONCLUSION!
THINGS LIKE THIS DRIVE ME CRAZY! NO CLIMAX, NO CONCLUSION, NO MEANING...
EEK.
NOW? RIGHT HERE?
REDO IT RIGHT AWAY!
DIDN'T I TELL YOU?! I WON'T ACCEPT ANYTHING OTHER THAN MANGA IN FOUR PANELS!

ザット
起 KI
承 SHO
転 TEN
結 KETSU

NOW THAT'S MORE LIKE IT.
IT IS, HUH...?

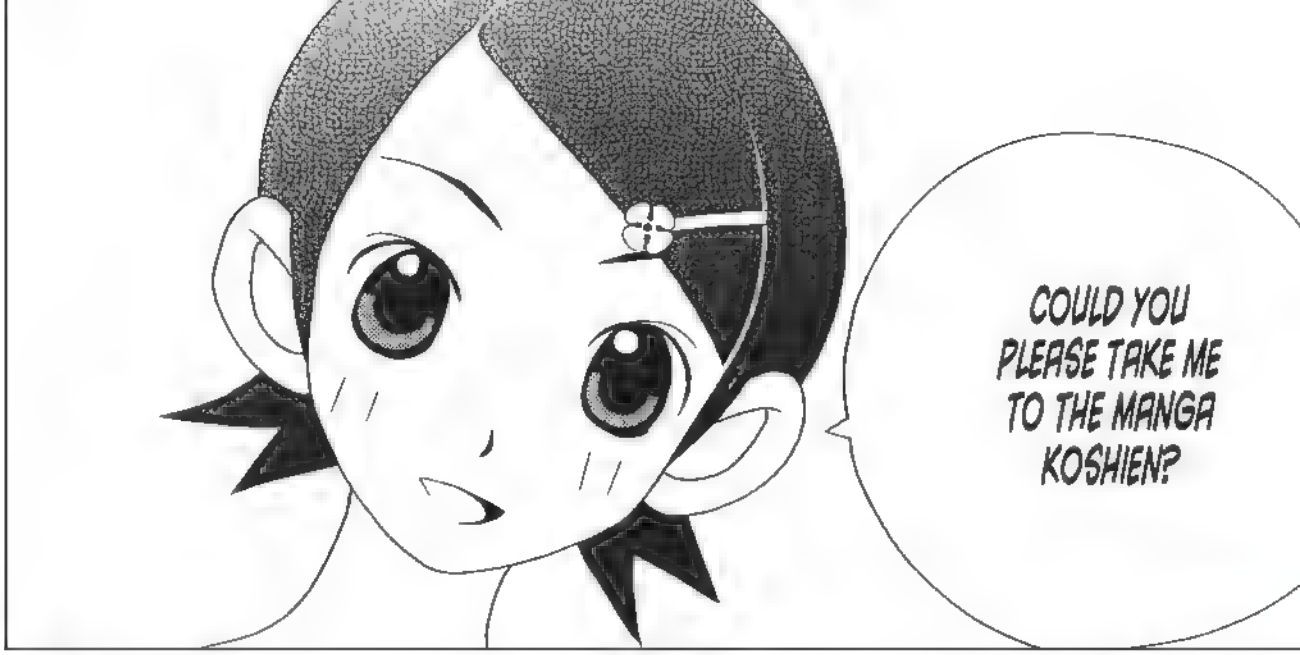
BUT, IF YOU'RE JUST DRAWING MANGA...

WHAT DO YOU MEAN "PRE-CISE"?
...WHY DON'T YOU TRY DOING SOMETHING MORE PRECISE?

FUJIYOSHI-SAN...

WHAT'S SHE DOING IN A PLACE LIKE THIS...?
OH!

KLANG
KLANG


COULD YOU PLEASE TAKE ME TO THE MANGA KOSHIEN?

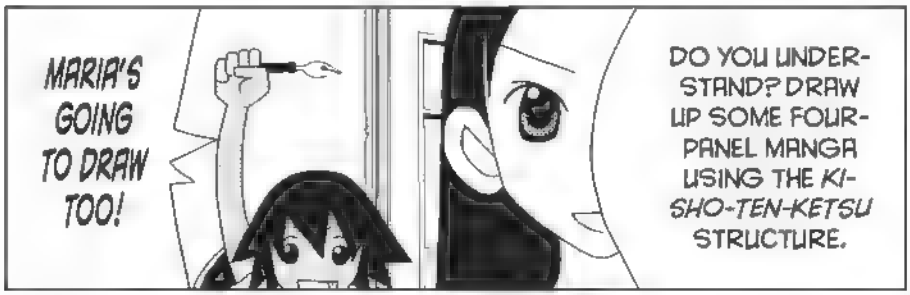
THAT'S IT!

"MANGA KOSHIEN"?

DON'T TALK LIKE MINAMI-CHAN!!

... SET YOUR SIGHTS ON THE MANGA KOSHIEN!
IF YOU'RE GOING TO DRAW MANGA...

I'M SURE IT'LL BE PRECISER THAN PRECISE!
THE MANGA KOSHIEN... THAT SOUNDS PRECISE!


MARIA'S GOING TO DRAW TOO!
DO YOU UNDERSTAND? DRAW UP SOME FOUR-PANEL MANGA USING THE KI-SHO-TEN-KETSU STRUCTURE.

YOU SEE WHAT I HAVE TO PUT UP WITH? NOT TO MENTION IT'S SUMMER VACATION!

SURE! MARIA KNOWS KANJI!
KI-SHO--TEN-KETSU?
MARIA, DO YOU KNOW WHAT KI-SHO-TEN-KETSU MEANS?

UM... THOSE ARE DIFFERENT KANJI PRONOUNCED "KI-SHO-TEN-KETSU."

BUT IT'S TRUE STORY.

SENSEI...!

SNOOP

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "KI-SHO-TEN-KETSU"?

CAN'T BE EXPLAINED WITH *KI-SHO-TEN-KETSU* ALONE.

IN REALITY, THE WORLD...

IN REAL LIFE, AFTER KI-SHO-TEN-KETSU...

SETUP

DEVELOPMENT

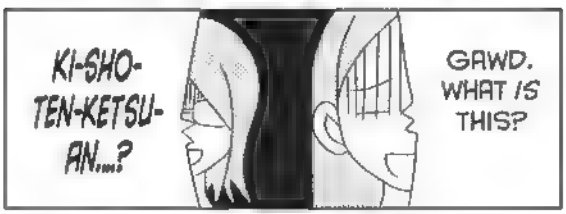
TWIST

CONCLUSION

CENSORED

...THERE'S USUALLY A FIFTH PANEL!

闇
AT THE END THERE IS DARKNESS!
FLASH
LAUNCH FIRE-WORKS!
SEE THEM FROM THE SIDE!
SEE THEM FROM BELOW!
SEE THEM FROM ABOVE!
SEE THEM ALONE!
SERVE
RECEIVE!
ATTACK!
WIN!
RIP
PROTEC-TIVE CUS-TODY
DRIP


KI-SHO-TEN-KETSU-AN...?
GAWD. WHAT IS THIS?

* GIRL WEARING RED SHOES → 5TH PANEL: TUBERCULOSIS
* MAN LOSES JOB → 5TH PANEL: HE STILL HAS TO PAY LAST YEAR'S INCOME TAX
* SUCCESSFUL SEDUCTION → 5TH PANEL: IT WAS A "BADGER GAME"
* SUCCESSIVE HITS BY THE YOMIURI GIANTS → 5TH PANEL: SIKORSKY'S MOP-UP OPERATION
* PINKO'S DIET → 5TH PANEL: RELAPSE
* ASSOCIATION FOR THOSE FALSELY ACCUSED OF ENGAGING IN LEWD ACTS → 5TH PANEL: TAKING ILLEGAL PHOTOS
* "BE WITH YOU" → 5TH PANEL: IN REAL TY, SHE'S PREGNANT.
* A MOTORCYCLE GANG SOCIETY → 5TH PANEL: AT AN ANTIQUE CAR MEETING
* "RAMEN WARS" → 5TH PANEL: SHOP OWNER DETAINED
"AN" MEANING "DARKNESS"... THE TERRIBLE, SHADY FIFTH PANEL!

CORRECT. IT'S SHADY.
IS IT CONSIDERED SHADY IF I MAKE "SILENT PHONE CALLS" TO MY EX-BOYFRIEND?

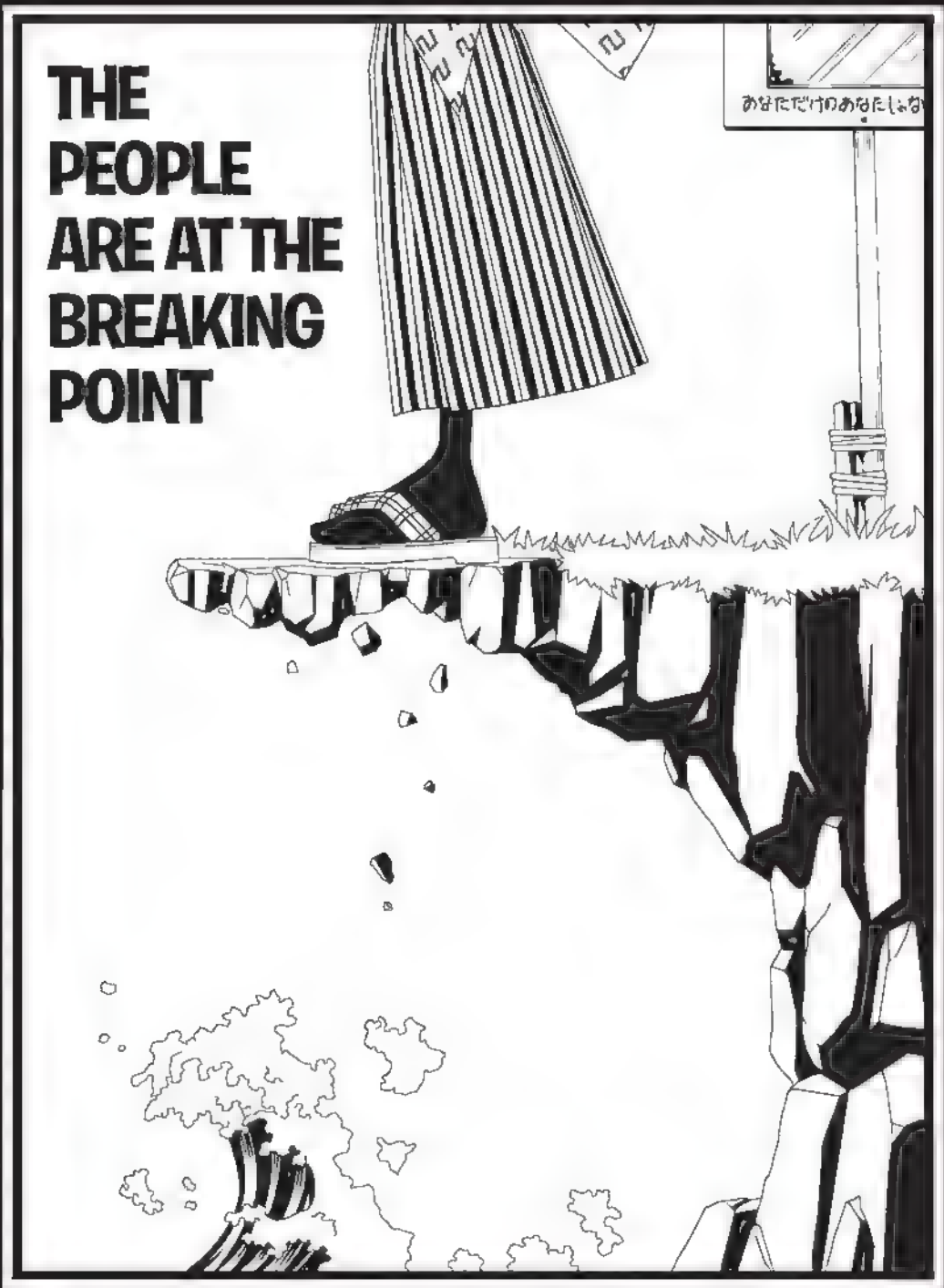
起
KI
承
SHO
?
DRAW IT PROPERLY.
転
TEN
HE'S AN ART TEACHER?!
結
KETSU
NOW, GRAB MY "PAINT-BRUSH."
闇
AN

ATTENDANCE LIST
CLASS 2-F

ATTENDANCE NO. 29

HARUMI FUJIYOSHI

EAR FETISH, ADDICTED TO COUPLING



CHAPTER 16

ダイヤモンドヘッド

WE'RE NOW AT THE OCEAN'S EDGE SCHOOL.

THE FIRST PAGE OF OUR YOUTH.
BLUE SEAS, WHITE SAND...

...THE OCEAN'S EDGE WAS A MOST FRIGHTENING SCHOOL...
BUT WHAT WE *DIDN'T* KNOW WAS...

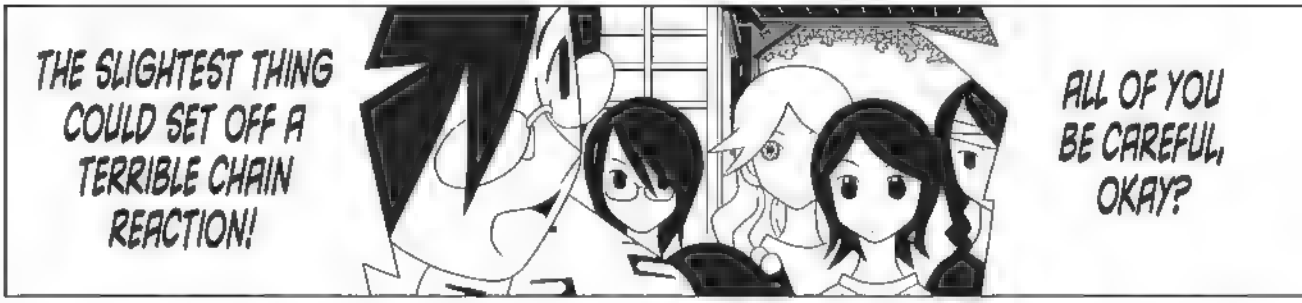
WHY DO I HAVE TO TAKE THE CLASS ON A SCHOOL TRIP? IT'S MY SUMMER VACATION.
BESIDES, THERE'S SOMETHING WEIRD ABOUT THIS PLACE...
EDGE BOARDING HOUSE
THANK YOU FOR HAVING US.
AH, YES...
EDGY EDGY
MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME...
EDGY EDGY

WHY'D YOU WALK ON IT?!
I JUST WAXED THAT FLOOR!
WH-WHAT DID YOU DO THAT FOR?!
SEAMAN SHIP
I'M AT THE BREAKING POINT!!
40 MIN.
30 MIN.
15 MIN.
EVERY TIME I WAX IT, PEOPLE WALK ALL OVER IT BEFORE IT HAS A CHANCE TO DRY.
THE GAUGE YOU HAD THERE WAS A STRESS-LEVEL METER, RIGHT?
APOLO-GIZE!
THAT'S GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH IT!
...BUT HOW WAS I SUPPOSED TO KNOW THAT?
YOU SAY THIS...
BUT, OF COURSE... I GET IT. THIS ISN'T THE "OCEAN'S EDGE" SCHOOL...
IT'S LIKE THEY'RE ABOUT TO EXPLODE AT ANY SECOND.
ひひひ
EDGY
EDGY
EVERYONE AROUND HERE SEEMS SO TENSE...

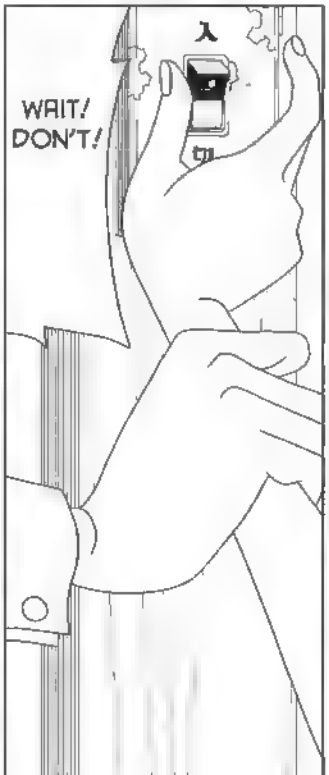
...IT'S THE "ON EDGE" SCHOOL!

BOTH HUMAN BEINGS AND INANIMATE OBJECTS ARE AT A CRITICAL POINT, READY TO BLOW AT ANY MOMENT!
EVERY-THING HERE IS ON EDGE!

DON'T TALK SUCH NON-SENSE!


THE SLIGHTEST THING COULD SET OFF A TERRIBLE CHAIN REACTION!
ALL OF YOU BE CAREFUL, OKAY?

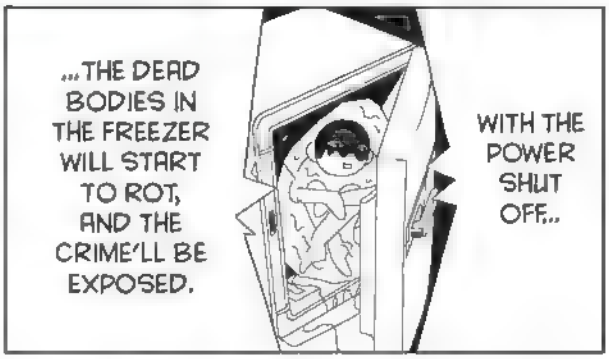
IF YOU TURN IT ON...
I'M SURE THE ELECTRICITY IS SET TO THE VERY MAXIMUM LEVEL.


WAIT! DON'T!

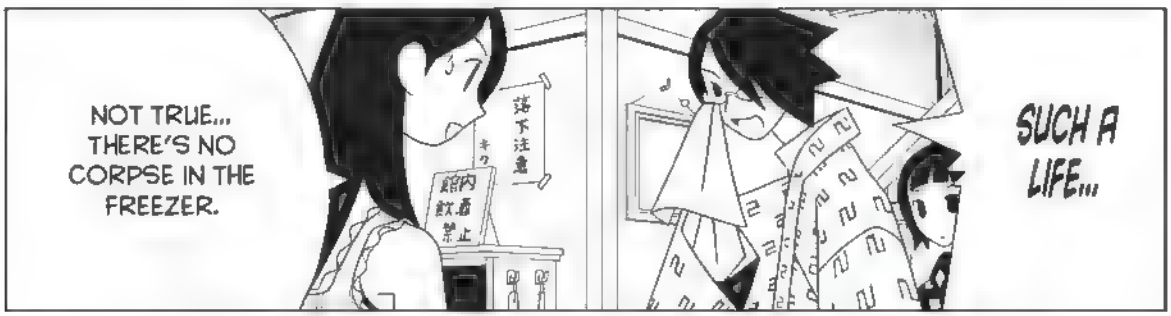
IT'S KIND OF DARK IN THIS HALLWAY.

FIZZLE
GRRAK
...IT'LL BLOW THE FUSES!

AND WE'LL BE FALSELY ACCUSED AND PUT IN PRISON FOR A CRIME WE NEVER COMMITTED!!
WE'LL BE THE NUMBER ONE SUSPECTS!


...THE DEAD BODIES IN THE FREEZER WILL START TO ROT, AND THE CRIME'LL BE EXPOSED.
WITH THE POWER SHUT OFF...

AS AN OLD MAN, I'LL GIVE AWAY ALL MY MONEY TO CHARITY, AND DIE ALONE IN A CHEAP RENTED APARTMENT!
AD 2045
NO MATTER HOW MUCH MONEY THEY TRY TO COMPENSATE ME WITH, IT'LL NEVER MAKE UP FOR THE YEARS I LOST!!
BY THE TIME I'M CLEARED OF THE CRIME AND GET OUT OF PRISON, I'LL BE OVER SIXTY YEARS OLD.


NOT TRUE... THERE'S NO CORPSE IN THE FREEZER.
SUCH A LIFE...

HERE'S SOMETHING CHARGED WITH SYMBOLISM...

OH YEAH? TAKE A LOOK AT THAT.

IN THIS "MORIHIGE'S NARROW ESCAPE" TOY...
MORIHIGE'S NARROW ESCAPE
...ALL THE SWORDS ARE PIERCING EXCEPT FOR IN THE ONE REMAINING OPENING.
MARIA TOOK A PHOTO OF THE PLACE UNDER THE FLOOR!
WE CAN ASSUME THAT EVERYTHING AROUND HERE'S IN THAT STATE.
THIS PLACE WILL COLLAPSE IN A MAGNITUDE ONE EARTHQUAKE!
THE SUPPORTING PILLAR'S IN BIG TROUBLE!
TENSE
ぴり
TENSE
ぴり
THEY'RE COMPLETELY STRESSED OUT.
JUST LOOK AT THEM... THEY'RE OBVIOUSLY ON EDGE.
IF SOMETHING HAPPENS, WE'RE DEAD!
WHAT ERA IS THAT SLANG SUPPOSED TO BE FROM?!
STRESSED "TO THE MAX" IS WHAT YOU KIDS CALL IT!

I HEARD THAT HE'S A VICTIM OF BULLYING...
HE MUST BE FROM THE NEIGHBORING CLASS...
男子便所
BRRRR
ぶる
ぶる
BRRRR
OH...
SNAP
SO, NOW YOU'RE IGNORING ME?!
PEEK
GRR
GRR
ぴり
ぴり
LET'S PASS BY QUIETLY AND MAKE SURE THERE'S NO EYE CONTACT.
SHHHH
HOLD IT! THAT'S A NO-NO!
I'LL MAKE A BOMB!
I CAN'T TAKE IT ANY-MORE!
THOUGH ZETSUBOU-SENSEI ESCAPED THE BOARDING HOUSE, LITTLE DID HE KNOW THE WHOLE VILLAGE WAS ON EDGE...
ボン
KA-BOOM
I'M LEAVING THIS TERRIFYING PLACE!
HEY, YOU THERE. DO YOU WANT A RIDE?

ゆーら
SWAYYYY~
A STORAGE RACK WITH 100 PASSENGERS
ゆーら
SWAYYYY~

カ
SNAP

B-BUT WHAT ABOUT THE 101ST PERSON?

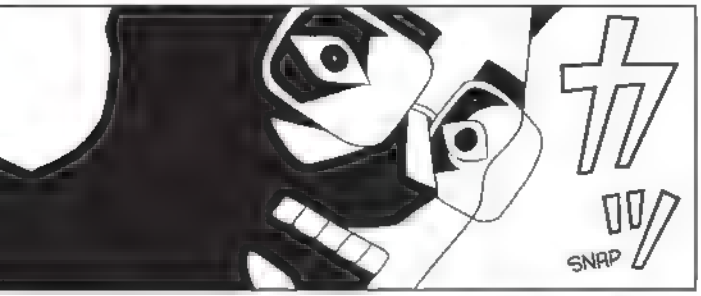
MY TRUCK CAN CARRY 100 PEOPLE, NO PROBLEM!

FAMICON SHOP
GAME LABO
DVD
SOMEONE PLEASE HELP ME!

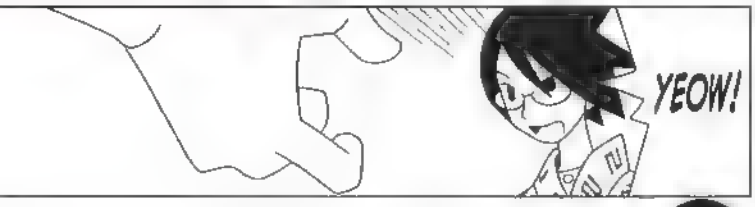
I'M SURE IF I'D GOTTEN ON, IT WOULD'VE FLATTENED LIKE A PANCAKE!
いやあああ
NOOOOO

STARE
きりっ
きりっ
TENSE
TENSE
TENSE
SHOPLIFTERS WILL BE PROSECUTED!
DIGITAL NOW AVAILABLE HERE
EEP!

SONNY
SHOPLIFTING G-MEN DROP-IN SPOT
SHOPLIFTERS WILL BE PROSECUTED TO THE FULLEST EXTENT OF THE LAW-
PLEASE DON'T SHOPLIFT
ANIME
SHOPLIFTING PROHIBITED!

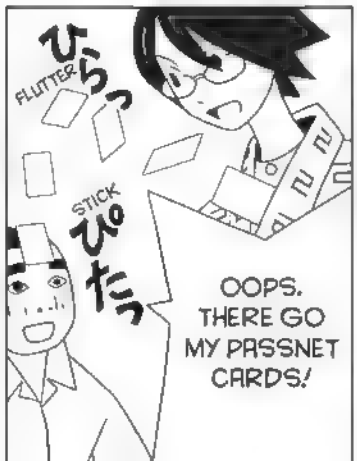

カ
SNAP

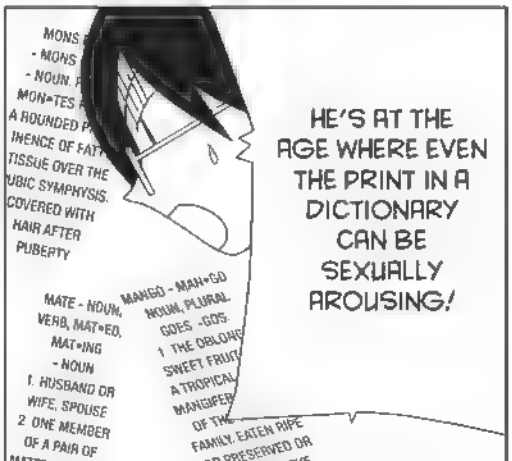
...YOU'RE MAKING IT KIND OF HARD FOR A REGULAR CUSTOMER TO SHOP HERE...
I DON'T DOUBT THAT YOU'VE HAD PROBLEMS IN THE PAST, BUT...


YEOW!

だっ
DASH
AGGGGHH!

IF EVEN A BREEZE WOULD BLOW BY, HE MIGHT EXPLODE!
もん
PANT
もん
PANT
もん
PANT
A YOUNG MAN WHO'S BECOME AWARE OF HIS SEX!


ひらっ
FLUTTER
ぴたっ
STICK
OOPS. THERE GO MY PASSNET CARDS!

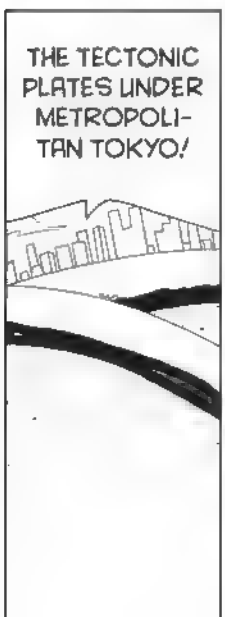

HE'S AT THE AGE WHERE EVEN THE PRINT IN A DICTIONARY CAN BE SEXUALLY AROUSING!

SNAP
TH...THAT LETTER "M"...IT LOOKS JUST LIKE...!

THIS WAY, SIR!
YIPES!

I'M OPPOSED TO SLEAZY MATERIAL!
あああ
AGGGHH
HE'S TOO SENSITIVE!
ほわっ
RELIEF

THIS IS A BAR WHERE THOSE WHO ARE AT THE *EXTREME EDGE* COME TOGETHER.
IPPAI PUB
D-DIDN'T I JUST SAY I WAS OPPOSED TO SLEAZY MATERIAL...?


THE TECTONIC PLATES UNDER METROPOLITAN TOKYO!

A FAMILY STUCK IN A CAR IN HEAVY TRAFFIC!

IS THAT A BOMB?
THAT'S A BOMB, EH WOT?
OR THESE LONDON BOBBIES!

LIKE THIS DEVIANT, STILL STUDYING TO GET INTO COLLEGE AT AGE THIRTY!

- JAPAN'S DEFICIT: 750 TRILLION
- A COMMISSIONED SALESMAN WITH ZERO CONTRACTS THIS MONTH
- POP IDOLS PAST THEIR PRIME, WHO JUST GET MORE AND MORE EXHIBITIONISTIC
- A MARRIED COUPLE WITH IRRECONCILABLE MARITAL DIFFICULTIES
- THE PEOPLE WHO SET UP THE COMIKET EXHIBITION HALL
- NASA PEOPLE • NASDA PEOPLE
- BASEBALL COACH TSUNEO HORIUCHI DURING A PRESS CONFERENCE
- IPPEI HAYASHIYA • COCCO IN THE PAST
- THE DAY WHEN A NEW CAR OWNER LETS SOMEONE ELSE DRIVE HER CAR
- YAHOO AUCTIONS WHERE THE BIDS GO UP AT 50 YEN INTERVALS
- WINDOWS 98 SPECS • THE MANAGER OF THE PLATON HOTEL
- MY THINKING ABILITIES

YOU SEE, EVERYONE AND EVERYTHING'S AT THE BREAKING POINT!

THAT'S THE PURPOSE OF THIS PUB!

EDGY EDGY ビリビリ

...A VERY STRANGE EQUILIBRIUM, SORT OF LIKE CHECKMATE, COMES INTO PLAY!

ビリビリ EDGY EDGY

LET'S BREAK UP!

IF WE DO, I'LL KILL MYSELF

BUT WHEN TWO EXTREMELY EDGY PEOPLE ARE PUT TOGETHER...

THERE ARE MANY SUCH BATTLES, EVEN IN THE HEISEI ERA!

A POLITICIAN WHO SAYS HE'LL GO AGAINST THE PARTY LINE AND THE CHIEF SECRETARY OF THE PARTY WHO SAYS HE WON'T OFFICIALLY APPROVE IT!

EDGY EDGY ビリビリ

MANGA ARTISTS WORKING AWFULLY CLOSE TO THE DEAD-LINE AND THEIR EDITORS!

ZZZ すー

EDGY EDGY ビリビリ

THE MAN WHO WANTS TO RETURN ILLEGAL MONEY AND THE MAN WHO WANTS TO FLEE TO ESCAPE HIS DEBTS!

EDGY ビリビリ EDGY

EVERY-WHERE I GO, THINGS ARE AT THE BREAKING POINT!

だっ DASH

THIS PLACE IS SCARING ME!

I CAN'T STAND THE TENSION!

GOD, PLEASE HELP ME!

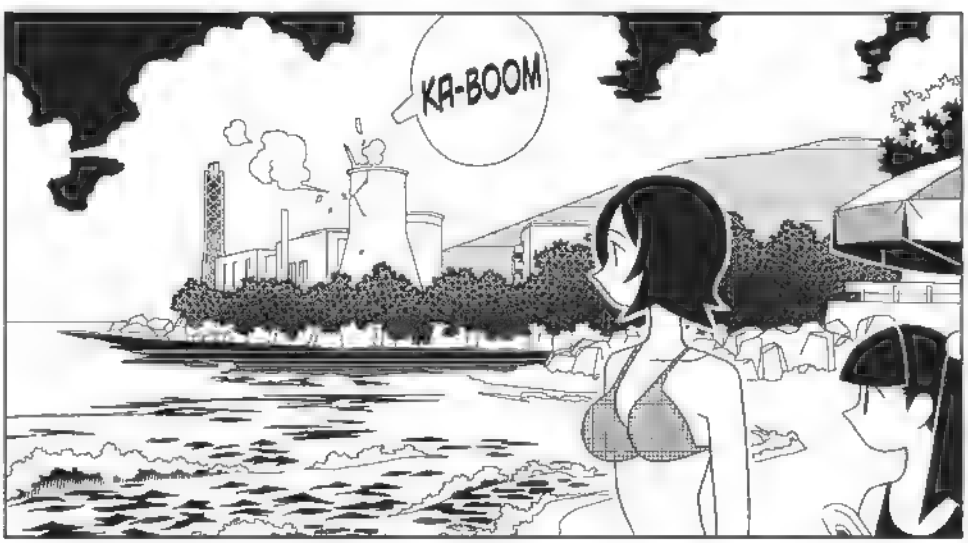
THIS IS A TIME WHEN EVEN A PERSON LIKE ME TURNS TO GOD!

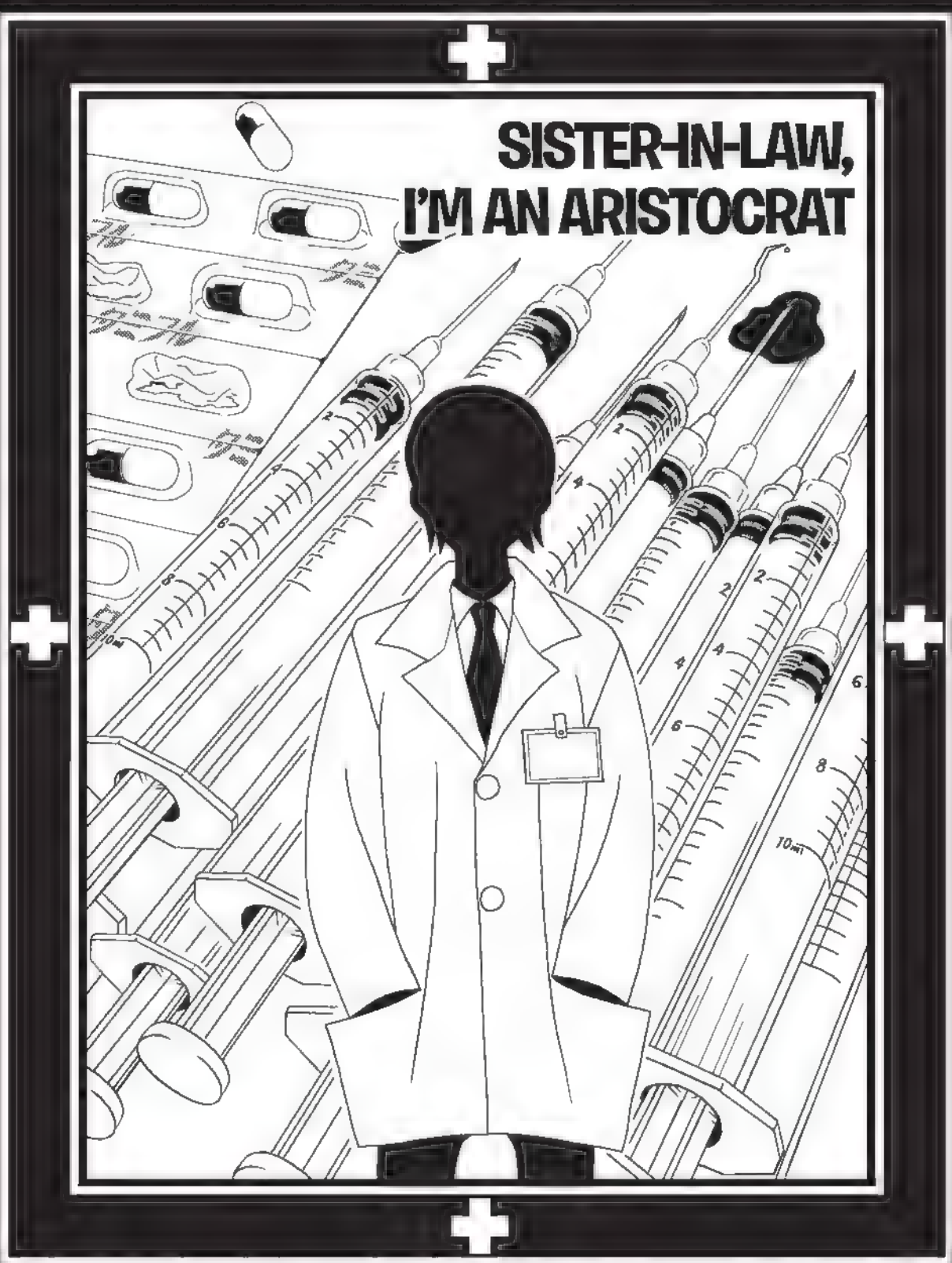
GRRR
ひ
き
GRR
ひ
き
ON THE THIRD OFFENSE...
...EVEN THE BUDDHA WILL GET ANGRY!

ONE MORE STRIKE AND I'M OUT, HUH?

IT'S BUTSUMETSU, THE DAY OF BUDDHA'S DEATH! THE MOST UNLUCKY DAY IN THE CALENDAR!
DON'T YOU KNOW WHAT TODAY IS, SENSEI?

代々木公園
Yoyogikouen St
WHEN I LOOK AT IT, I JUST SEE A RED PANDA.
SNAP


KA-BOOM



CHAPTER 17

げんなり
LANGUID-
I SURE CAUGHT MYSELF A BAD SUMMER COLD.
ITOSHIKI CLINIC
COUGH!
NEXT PATIENT, PLEASE...
OH!
EXCUSE ME, DOCTOR...

WHAT'S THE MATTER?
HM?
...SENSEI?!
I'M NOZOMU'S OLDER BROTHER, MIKOTO ITOSHIKI.
AH...
SO YOU'RE ONE OF NOZOMU'S STUDENTS.
I TAKE HUMBLE PRIDE IN THAT MY NAME SIGNIFIES...
...MY DESTINY TO SERVE AS A DOCTOR IN CHARGE OF PEOPLE'S LIVES.

絶命

ZETSUMEI (DEATH)

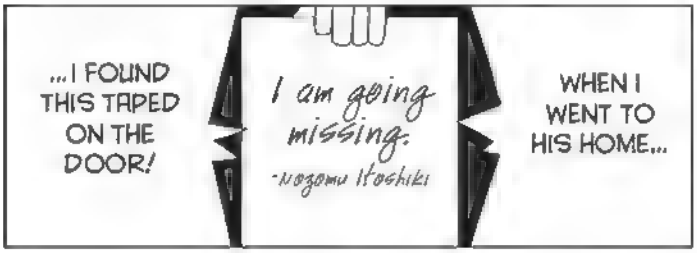
UM...
NOW, WHAT IS YOUR PROBLEM TODAY?

AHEM
I-IN ANY CASE... IT'S FINE NOW.
IF I LOST MY COMPOSURE OVER SOMETHING LIKE THAT, I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO SERVE AS A DOCTOR.

けろりん
TEE-HEE
IT SEEMS I'M ALL BETTER.

HAVE YOU SEEN SENSEI AROUND?
OH...CHIRI-SAN.

DOCTOR, PLEASE CALM DOWN!
THEN WHAT THE HELL DID YOU COME HERE FOR, ANYWAY?! THANKS FOR NOTHING, DAMMIT!


...I FOUND THIS TAPED ON THE DOOR!
I am going missing.
-Nozomu Itoshiki
WHEN I WENT TO HIS HOME...

THERE'S NO WAY SOMEONE I KNOW COULD BE A MISSING PERSON.
GEE. HOW SILLY, THOUGH.

WHAT'LL WE DO IF SOMETHING HAPPENS TO HIM?
SENSEI? MISSING?

HE'S JUST GONE BACK FOR SATOGAERI. YOU KNOW, TO VISIT HIS PARENTS.
MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT.
OH, IT'S YOU AGAIN.
THIS IS SENSEI'S OLDER BROTHER...
ITOSHIKI CLINIC
A MISSING PERSON WOULDN'T WRITE THAT HE'S A MISSING PERSON, NOW WOULD HE?
MAYBE WE SHOULD ASK...
I TOLD YOU NOT TO CALL ME THAT!
ZETSUMEI-SENSEI, I HAVE SOMETHING I NEED TO ASK YOU.
I-IT REALLY IS A SATOGAERI!
IT SEEMS THAT NOZOMU'S GONE BACK TO OUR PARENTS' HOME FOR A MIAI... AN ARRANGED-MARRIAGE MEETING.
...SO THAT'S WHERE HE IS? I SEE.
ちんっ KLAK

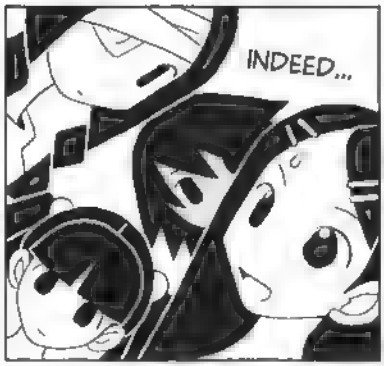
I-I'LL WRITE DOWN THE ADDRESS FOR YOU, OKAY?!
WHERE DO YOUR PARENTS LIVE?
WHY'S HE HAVING A MIAI ANYHOW?
NOT UNTIL MY RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM HAS BEEN PROPERLY SETTLED!
I WON'T STAND FOR THIS HAPPENING!
ぱーん
SHOOOM
ガラ
SHFF
IT'S HOT...
ひょい
HOIST
THUD
すと。

ぶぃあーん
VROOOM
KUROKAN COURIERS
WHAT'RE YOU DOING?! LET ME GO!
ちーん
TA-DAA
WHOLESALE APPLES
WHOLESALE APPLES
WHOLESALE APPLES
GOT IT!
おろ
OH NO
OUT OF RANGE?!
AI YI YI
OUT OF RANGE?!
OUT OF RANGE?!
OUT OF RANGE?!
ガ
GAHHH
OUT OF RANGE
8/24
PM14:50

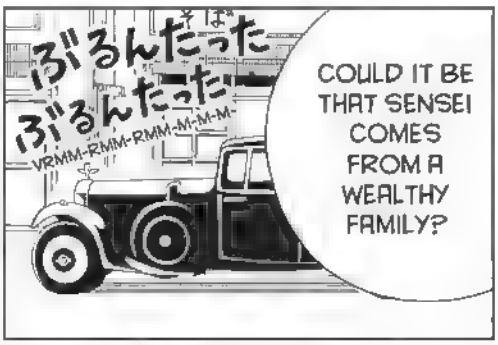
ぱーん
SHOOM
信州そば
HUH?
ぷしゅー
SWOOSH
PHEW.
田中
I MADE IT!
IT SEEMS THAT THERE IS SOME HIDDEN MEANING TO ALL THIS.
I SEE...SO, YOU'VE ALL ARRIVED HERE FOR DIFFERENT REASONS.
BUT WHAT ARE YOU ALL DOING HERE?
MASTER NOZOMU?
YOU MUST BE MASTER NOZOMU'S STUDENTS.
蔵井沢駅
KURAIZAWA STATION

I AM HERE TO WELCOME YOU.
I AM THE BUTLER OF THE ITOSHIKI HOUSEHOLD.

SEBASTIAN... PERHAPS THAT IS SOME REMEMBRANCE IMPRINTED IN YOUR CHILDHOOD.
I AM NOT "SEBASTIAN." MY NAME IS TOKITA.
SEBASTIAN!
ローメン


INDEED...

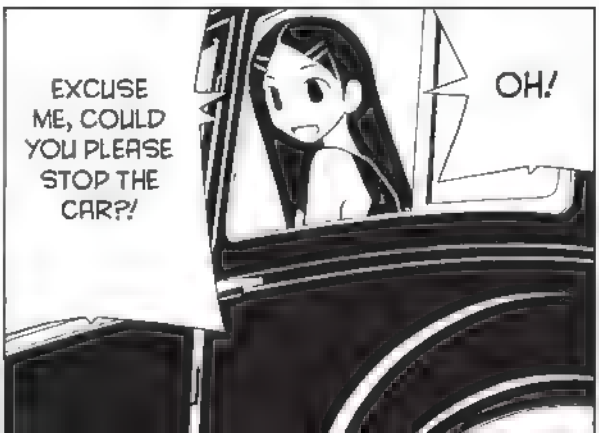
THE ITOSHIKIS ARE A PRESTIGIOUS FAMILY THAT DATES BACK BEFORE THE GENROKU ERA. IT STILL HAS A POWERFUL INFLUENCE WITH THE LOCAL COMMUNITY.

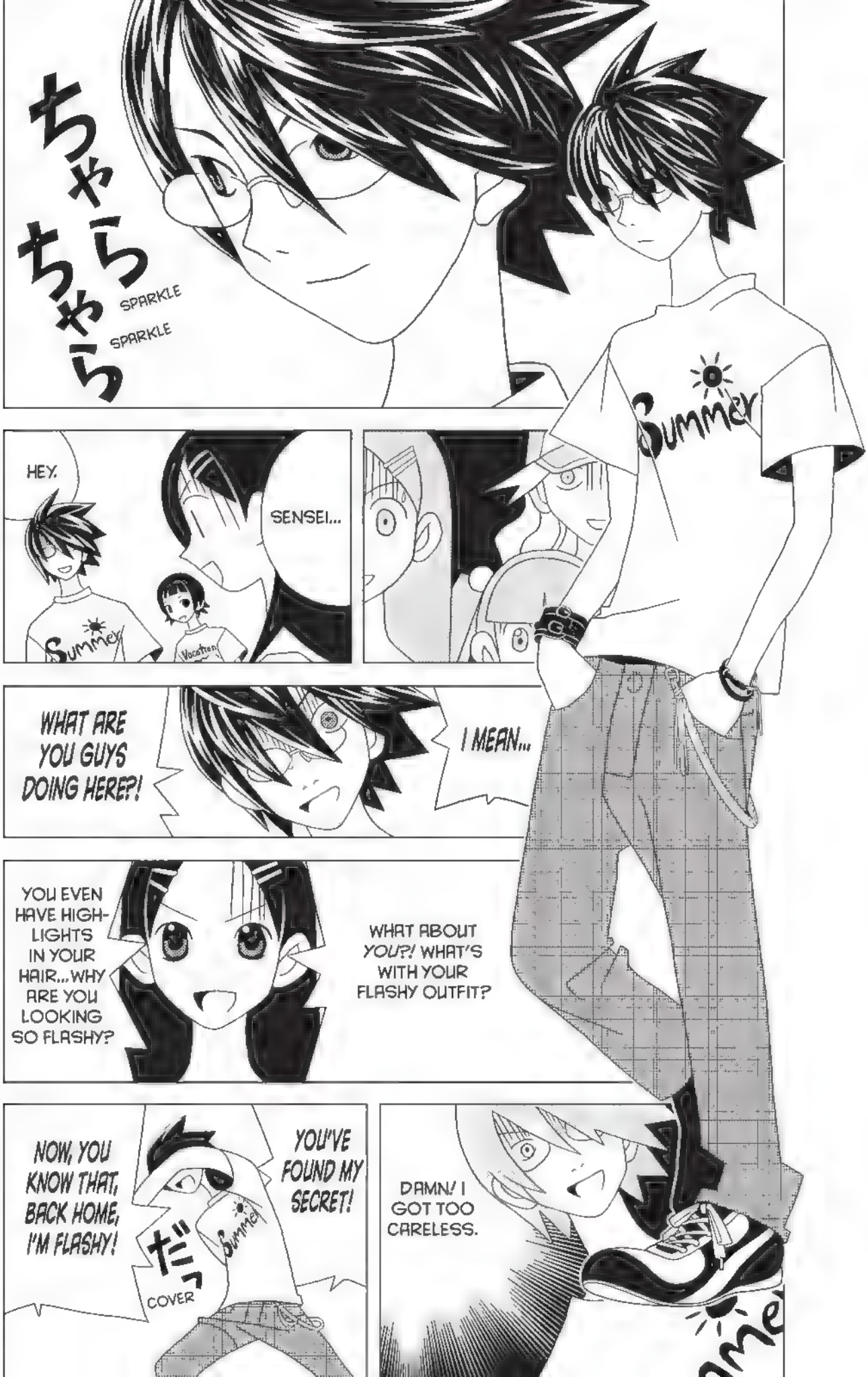

ぶるんたった
ぶるんたった
VRMM-RMM-RMM-M-M-M-
COULD IT BE THAT SENSEI COMES FROM A WEALTHY FAMILY?

IN YOUR CASE, GOING HOME MEANS DEPORTATION. GOT IT?
MAIL
MAIL
MARIA WANTS TO GO BACK HOME TOO!

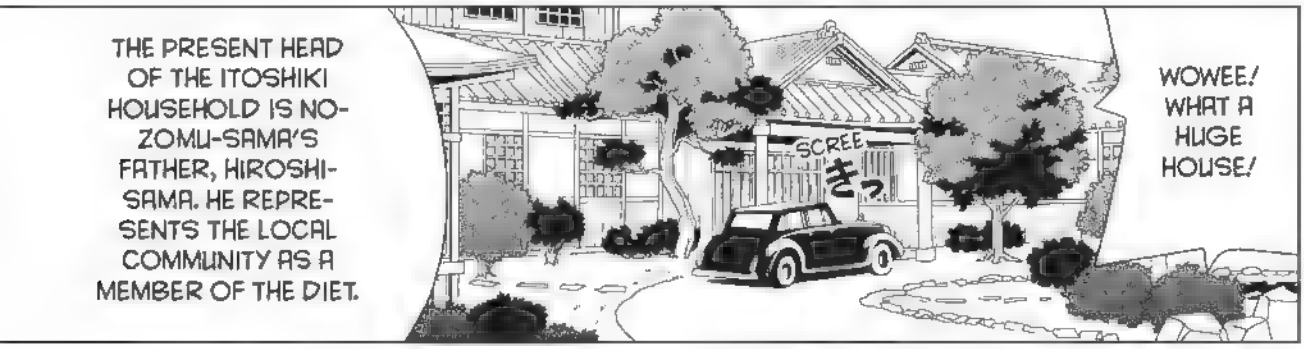
SO, THE MASTER IS RETURNING TO HIS CHILDHOOD HOME.

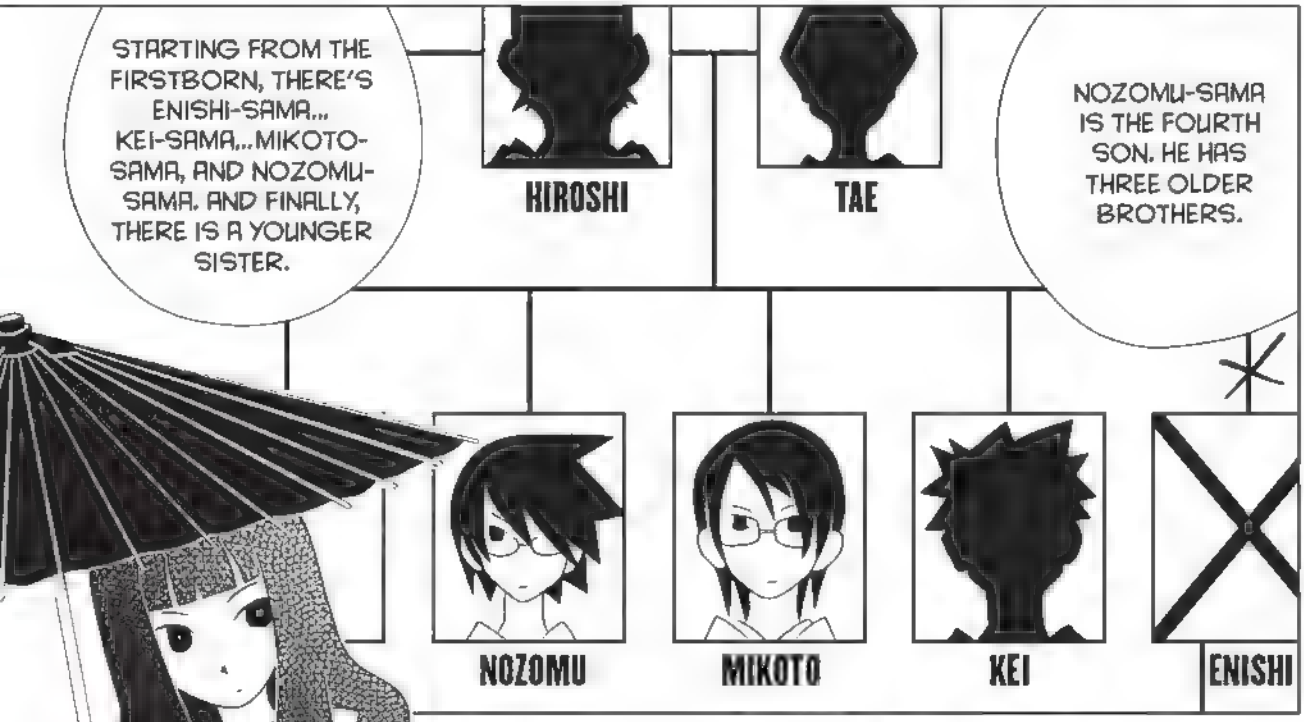
SENSEI!


EXCUSE ME, COULD YOU PLEASE STOP THE CAR?!
OH!


ちゃらちゃら
SPARKLE
SPARKLE
HEY.
SENSEI...
WHAT ARE YOU GUYS DOING HERE?!
I MEAN...
YOU EVEN HAVE HIGH-LIGHTS IN YOUR HAIR... WHY ARE YOU LOOKING SO FLASHY?
WHAT ABOUT YOU?! WHAT'S WITH YOUR FLASHY OUTFIT?
NOW, YOU KNOW THAT, BACK HOME, I'M FLASHY!
YOU'VE FOUND MY SECRET!
ガシ
COVER
DAMN! I GOT TOO CARELESS.

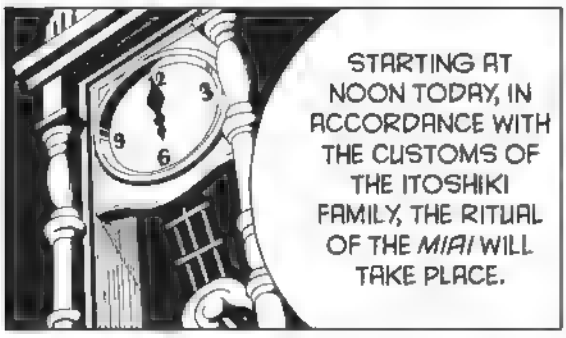
VRMM-M-M-M-
ぶるんたった
LET GO OF ME!
がしっ
GLOM
WE'VE FOUND YOU, MASTER!


THE PRESENT HEAD OF THE ITOSHIKI HOUSEHOLD IS NOZOMU-SAMA'S FATHER, HIROSHI-SAMA. HE REPRESENTS THE LOCAL COMMUNITY AS A MEMBER OF THE DIET.
SCREE
きっ
WOWEE! WHAT A HUGE HOUSE!


STARTING FROM THE FIRSTBORN, THERE'S ENISHI-SAMA... KEI-SAMA,...MIKOTO-SAMA, AND NOZOMU-SAMA. AND FINALLY, THERE IS A YOUNGER SISTER.
HIROSHI
TAE
NOZOMU-SAMA IS THE FOURTH SON. HE HAS THREE OLDER BROTHERS.
NOZOMU
MIKOTO
KEI
ENISHI

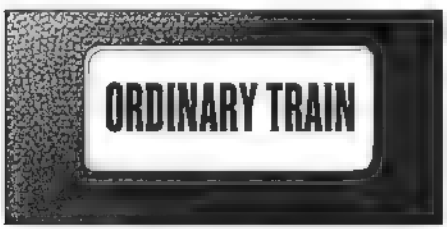
IKEBANA? SHE TEACHES FLOWER ARRANGEMENT?
SHE IS ONLY SEVENTEEN YEARS OF AGE, BUT SHE IS A MASTER OF *IKEBANA* IN THE CLASSICAL ITOSHIKI STYLE, AND HAS 3,000 STUDENTS UNDER HER TUTELAGE.
OH MY. WE HAVE GUESTS, DO WE?
SITTING OVER THERE IS THE YOUNGER SISTER, RIN-SAMA.

SO SHE'S ZETSURIN-SENSEI!
GET A SWORD.
IT'S IN THE MANSION, MISTRESS...


STARTING AT NOON TODAY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CUSTOMS OF THE ITOSHIKI FAMILY, THE RITUAL OF THE *MIAI* WILL TAKE PLACE.

I JUST REMEMBERED... WHAT'S ALL THIS ABOUT AN ARRANGED MARRIAGE?
AH, YES.

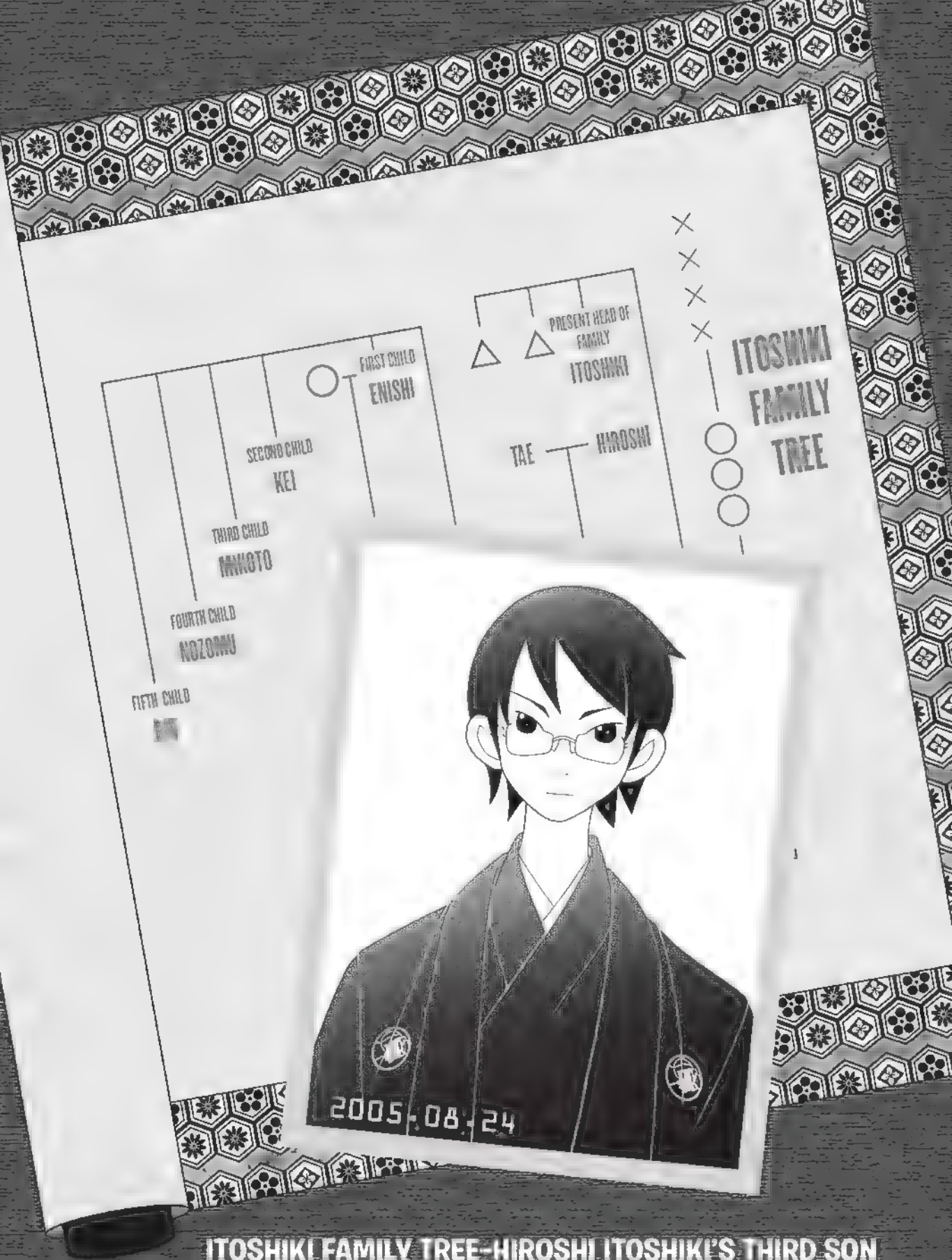
ONCE THE EYES MEET, MARRIAGE IS IMMEDIATE!!
CON-CLUDED ?!
ONCE THE EYES MEET, THE *MIAI* IS CONCLUDED.


ORDINARY TRAIN

NOT AGAIN!!
WE WILL NOW WAIT FOR A FEW MINUTES WHILE THE EXPRESS TRAIN PASSES THROUGH THIS STATION.

ガタゴト
CHUG-A-LUG CHUG-CHUG

SHE'LL BE LATE... SHE'S TAKING THE ORDINARY TRAIN.
COME TO THINK OF IT, NAMI-CHAN'S NOT HERE.



ITOSHIKI FAMILY TREE–HIROSHI ITOSHIKI'S THIRD SON

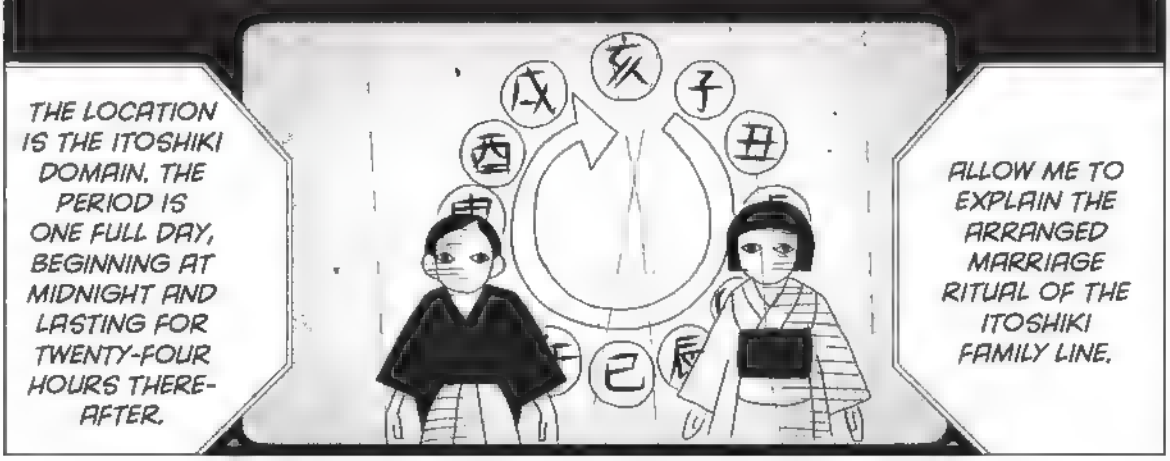
MIKOTO ITOSHIKI

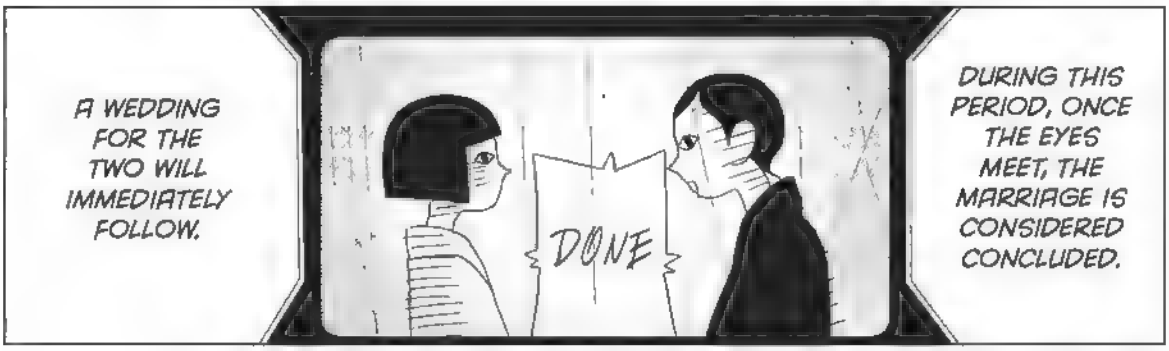
DOCTOR AT THE ITOSHIKI CLINIC

CHAPTER 18

ITOSHIKI

カタカタ
FLICKA-CLICKA FLICKA-CLICKA
カタカタ


THE LOCATION IS THE ITOSHIKI DOMAIN. THE PERIOD IS ONE FULL DAY, BEGINNING AT MIDNIGHT AND LASTING FOR TWENTY-FOUR HOURS THEREAFTER.
ALLOW ME TO EXPLAIN THE ARRANGED MARRIAGE RITUAL OF THE ITOSHIKI FAMILY LINE.

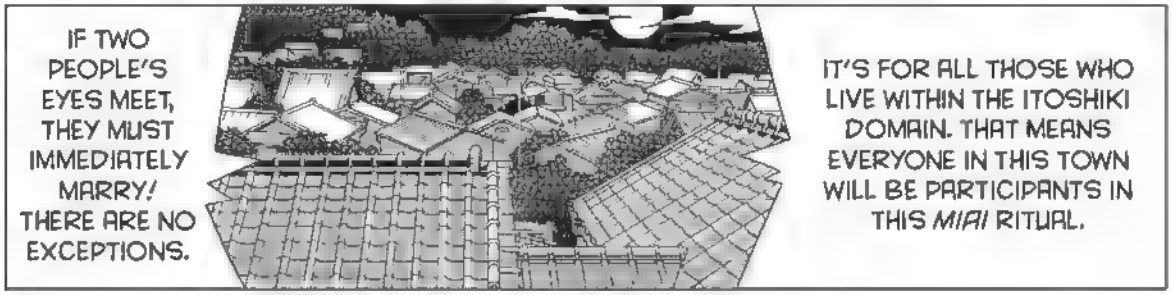

A WEDDING FOR THE TWO WILL IMMEDIATELY FOLLOW.
DONE
DURING THIS PERIOD, ONCE THE EYES MEET, THE MARRIAGE IS CONSIDERED CONCLUDED.

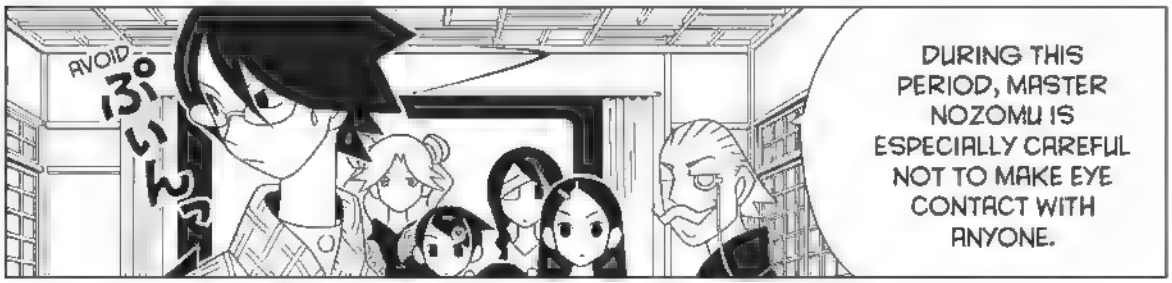
I'VE NEVER HEARD OF AN ARRANGED MARRIAGE LIKE THIS...!
THEY'RE MARRIED ONCE THEY MAKE EYE CONTACT?!

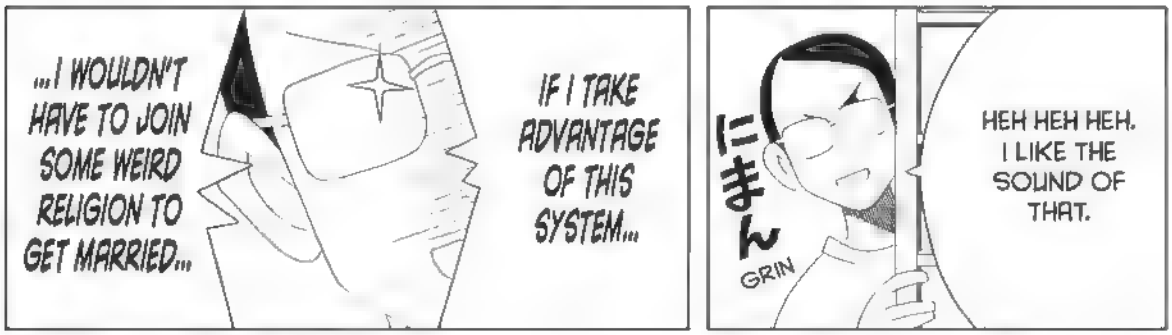
THE END

SO, YOU NOW KNOW THE REASON WHY I ALWAYS CAST MY EYES DOWNWARD.

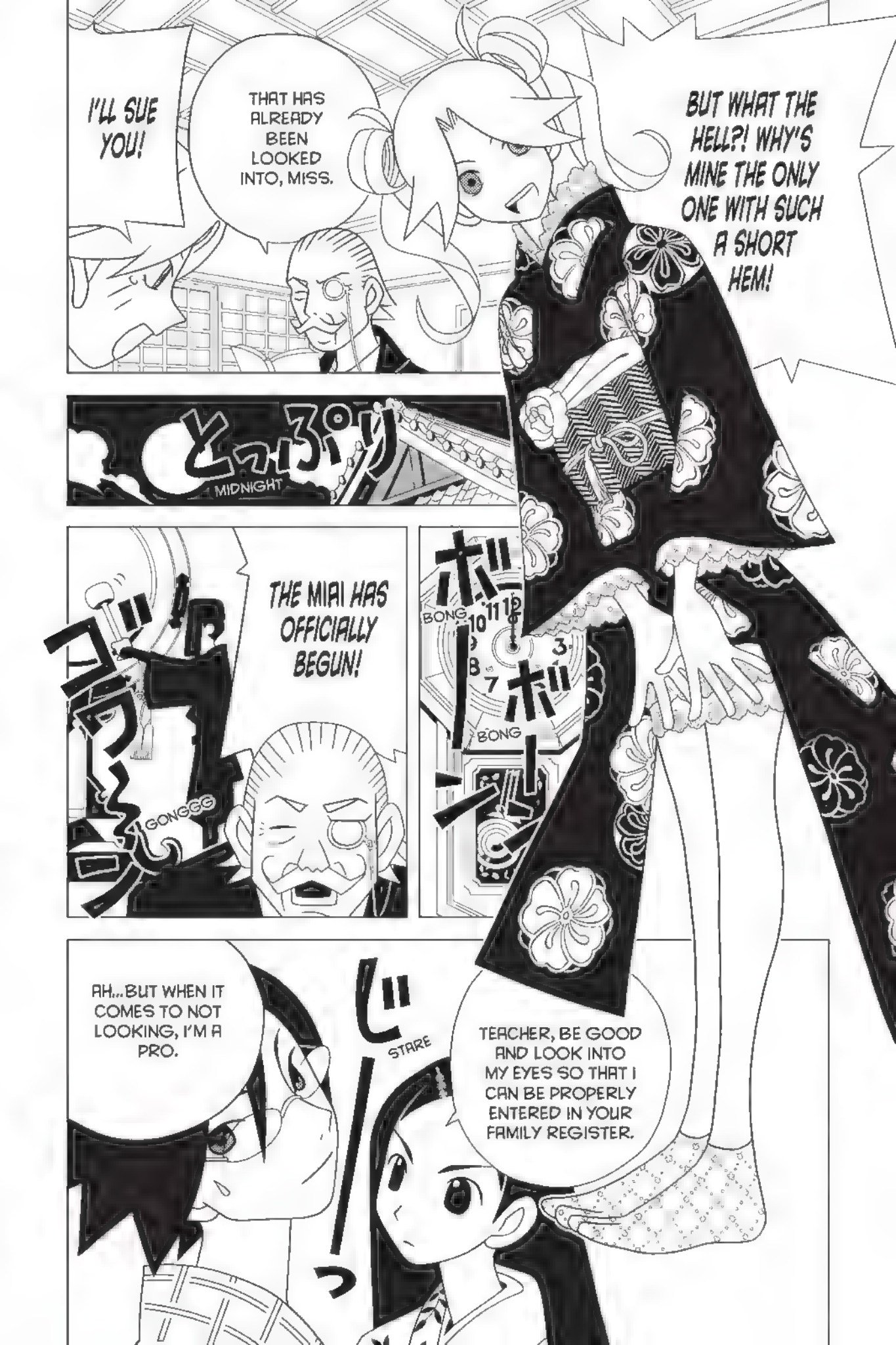
WHAAAT?
DON'T WORRY. IT ISN'T JUST FOR YOU GIRLS.
BECAUSE YOU MUST PARTICIPATE IN THE RITUAL TOO.
ALSO, WHY DID YOU MAKE US PUT ON KIMONOS?


IF TWO PEOPLE'S EYES MEET, THEY MUST IMMEDIATELY MARRY! THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS.
IT'S FOR ALL THOSE WHO LIVE WITHIN THE ITOSHIKI DOMAIN. THAT MEANS EVERYONE IN THIS TOWN WILL BE PARTICIPANTS IN THIS *MIAI* RITUAL.


AVOID
ぷいん
DURING THIS PERIOD, MASTER NOZOMU IS ESPECIALLY CAREFUL NOT TO MAKE EYE CONTACT WITH ANYONE.


...I WOULDN'T HAVE TO JOIN SOME WEIRD RELIGION TO GET MARRIED...
IF I TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS SYSTEM...
にまん
GRIN
HEH HEH HEH. I LIKE THE SOUND OF THAT.

I'VE CONCEDED TO WEARING A KIMONO. I CAN PARDON YOU FOR THAT...
OHH YEAH! THIS IS MY BIG CHANCE!
I MIGHT BE ABLE TO FIND A WIFE LIKE A NORMAL PERSON!
SNORT
ぶいん
SNORT
ぶいん


I'LL SUE YOU!
THAT HAS ALREADY BEEN LOOKED INTO, MISS.
BUT WHAT THE HELL?! WHY'S MINE THE ONLY ONE WITH SUCH A SHORT HEM!
とっぷり
MIDNIGHT
THE MIAI HAS OFFICIALLY BEGUN!
ゴーン
GONGGG
ボー
BONG
ボー
BONG
AH...BUT WHEN IT COMES TO NOT LOOKING, I'M A PRO.
じ
STARE
TEACHER, BE GOOD AND LOOK INTO MY EYES SO THAT I CAN BE PROPERLY ENTERED IN YOUR FAMILY REGISTER.

THE AQUARIUM THAT MIGHT HAVE HAD PETS IN IT
BLACK UNDER-ARM STUBBLE
ABAN-DONED CATS
THE BASEBALL TEAM SMOKING
FRIENDS SHOP-LIFTING
I'VE LIVED MY ENTIRE LIFE AVERTING MY EYES FROM ANYTHING UNPLEASANT!

ぎんっ
GAZE
!!

AVOID
NO, I WON'T!
ENOUGH OF THAT! NOW LOOK!

WHEREVER I TURN MY EYES, I FEEL THAT SOMETHING'S THERE.
WHOA! I SENSE DANGER LURKING AROUND ME.

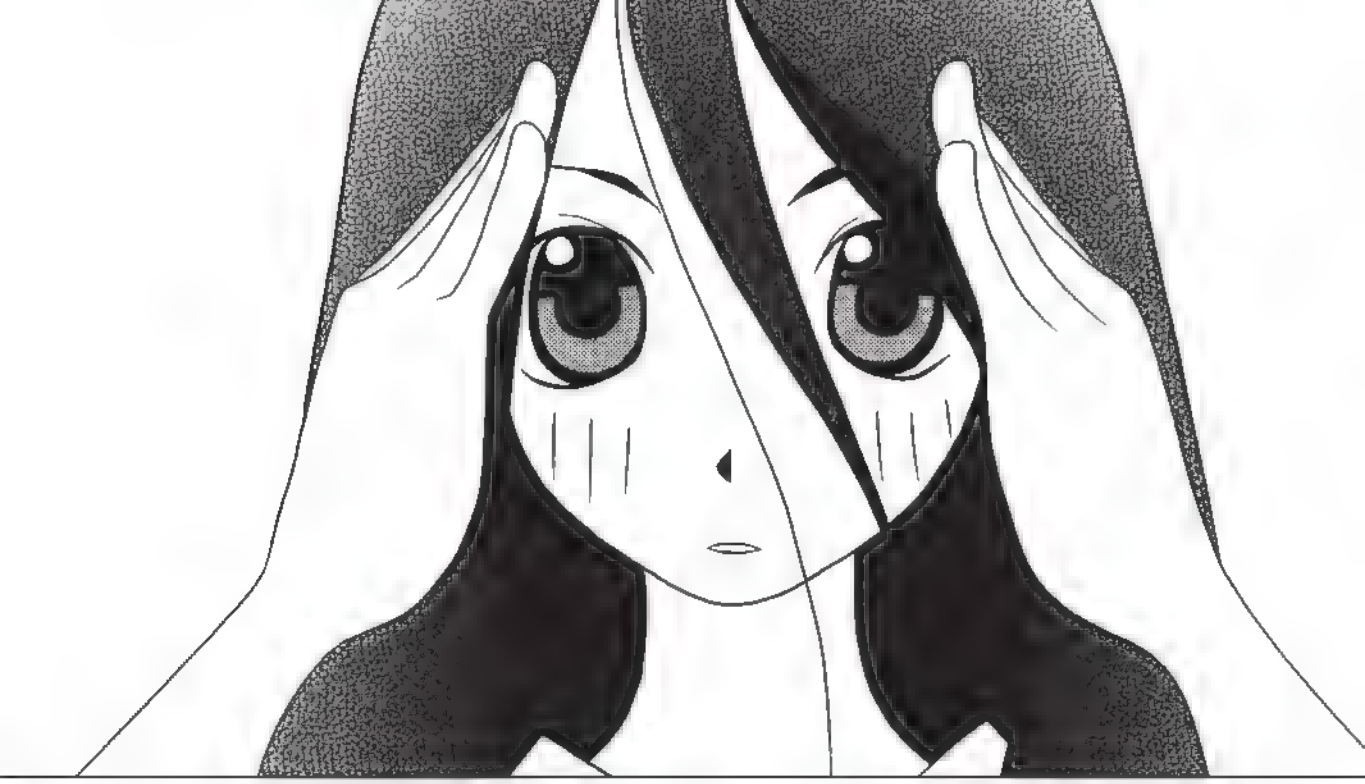
WOW! THAT'S LIKE THE DUCKING TECHNIQUE OF THE FAMOUS MUAY THAI BOXER, WAN CHAI!
ぶんっ
SWING-SWAY
SWING-SWAY
ぶんっ

ギイイ
KREEEK

I'LL HIDE IN THE WARE-HOUSE!

I WON'T LOCK EYES WITH ANYONE... NO MATTER WHAT!
HEY! HE'S GETTING AWAY!

SENSEI...
!
YES.
YOU'RE KIRI-SAN, RIGHT?
VEER
WHOOPS!
SO YOU'VE CONFINED YOURSELF IN THIS WAREHOUSE EVER SINCE, EH?
I WAS KIDNAPPED FROM SCHOOL AND BROUGHT HERE BY A COURIER TRUCK. THAT'S WHY I'M HERE.
RIGHT?
ちら
GLANCE
BESIDES, WITH YOUR HAIR, I'M SURE OUR EYES'LL NEVER MEET.
BUT I FEEL RELIEVED THAT IT WAS YOU, KIRI-SAN.
WELL, MOST ATTICS, WARE-HOUSES, AND STORAGE AREAS DO HAVE SOME-THING OR OTHER LURKING IN THEM.
SAI
SUKEKIYO
AYAKO
NOSTALJII



I'LL USE IT TO GET OUT OF HERE!

I JUST REMEMBERED... THERE'S A TRAP-DOOR IN THIS PLACE!

GAZE

OOPS...I STILL SENSE DANGER, SO I WON'T LOOK.

...HAS SOME REAL *MIAI* EXPERTS WAITING FOR YOU!

THE *MIAI* GROUP SITE...

HEH HEH HEH...IT DOESN'T QUITE WORK THAT WAY, MASTER.

すっ TMP たっ TMP たっ TMP たっ

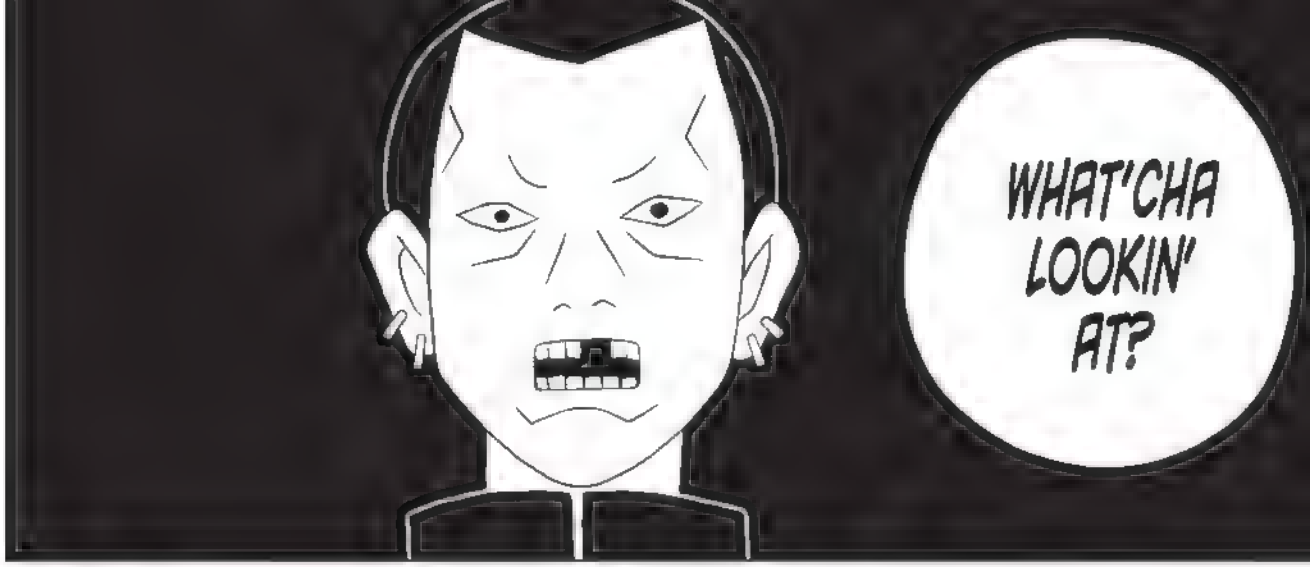
HEY YOU! HOLD IT RIGHT THERE!

!

たっ TMP

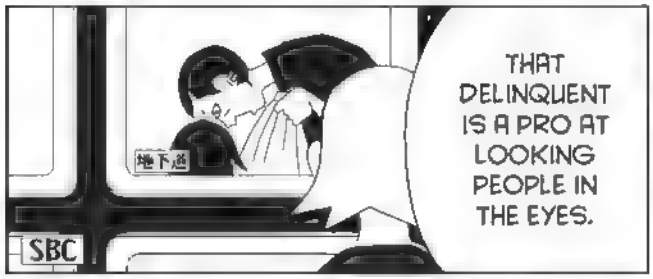
THEY ARE *PROS AT LOOKING.*

IF MASTER IS A PRO AT LOOKING AWAY...


WHAT'CHA LOOKIN' AT?

IF I LOOKED, I'D BE ASKING FOR TROUBLE!

HUH?
...I WASN'T LOOKING AT ANYTHING...


地下道
SBC
THAT DELINQUENT IS A PRO AT LOOKING PEOPLE IN THE EYES.

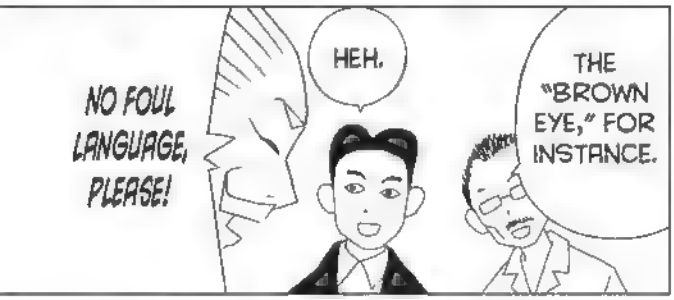
WHAT?!
ボコッ
KA-BASH
I'VE FOUND HIM, SAKAMOTO!

PHEW! LUCKY ME!
ガラン
GA-CHUNG
ガラン
GA-CHUNG
AH...
AH...

I NOW PROCLAIM YOU MAN AND WIFE!

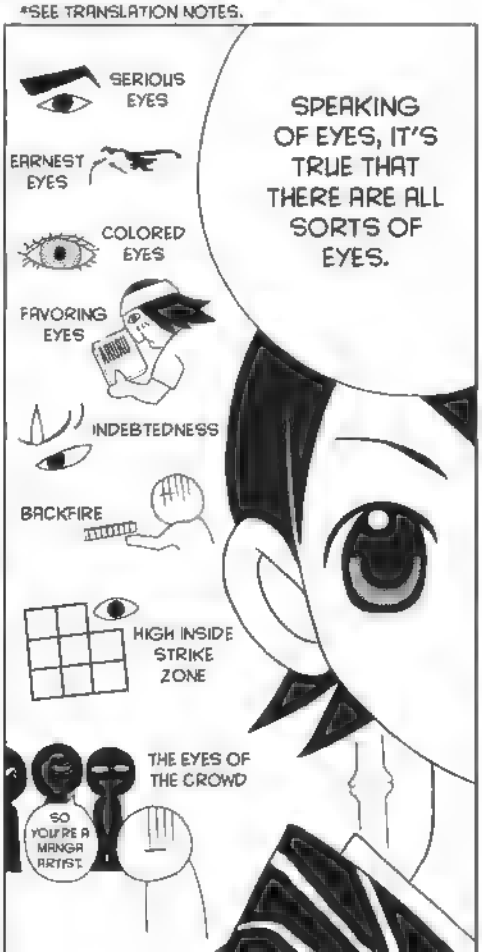
OH YEAH?! WHAT ARE YOU LOOKIN' AT?!
HEY! WHADDA YOU LOOKIN' AT?!

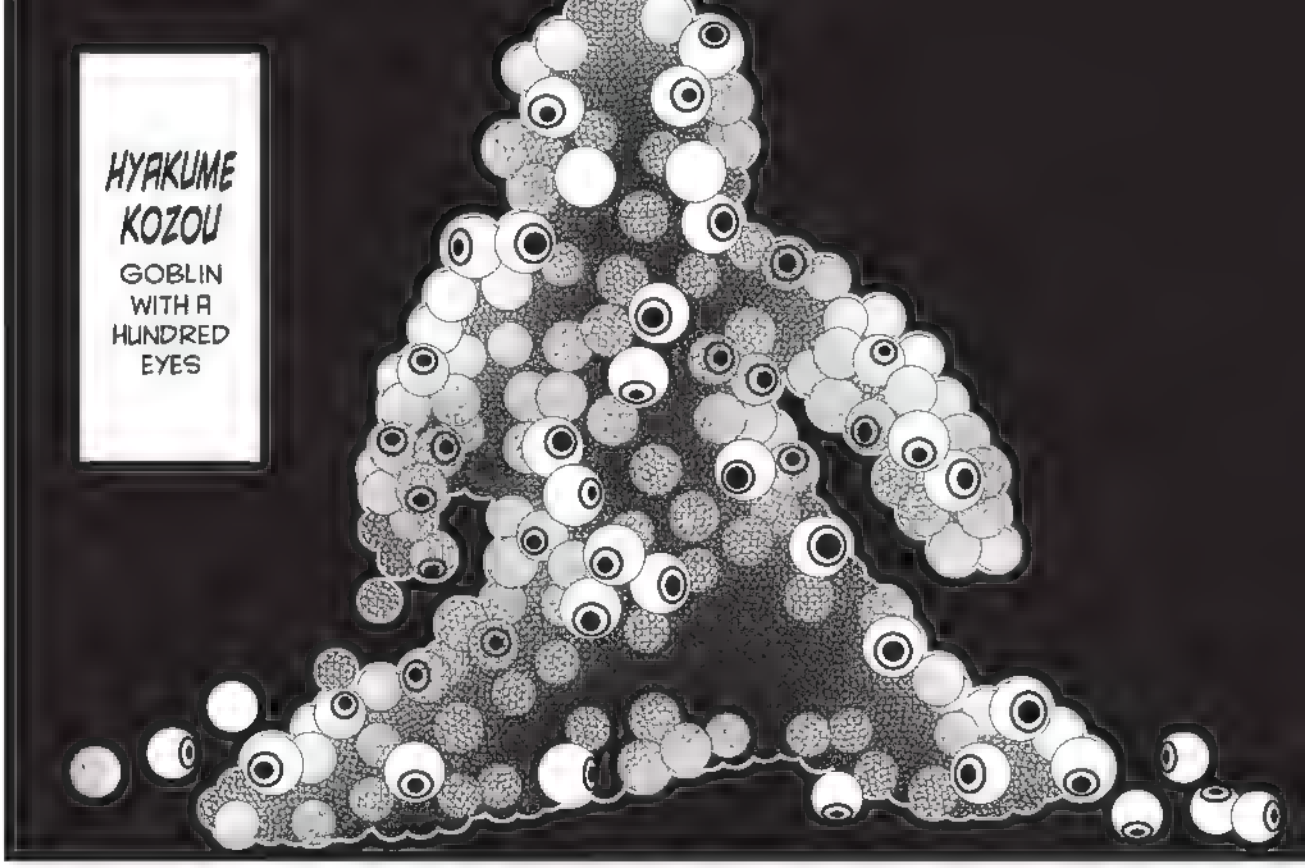
I GUESS YOU'RE GETTING THE PICTURE, THEN?
IT'S MORE LIKE HARASSMENT THAN A *MIAI*, THOUGH, ISN'T IT?
OR RATHER, IT GOT THAT WAY BEFORE WE KNEW IT.
THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS.
SO, IT EVEN WORKS BETWEEN MEN, I SEE.

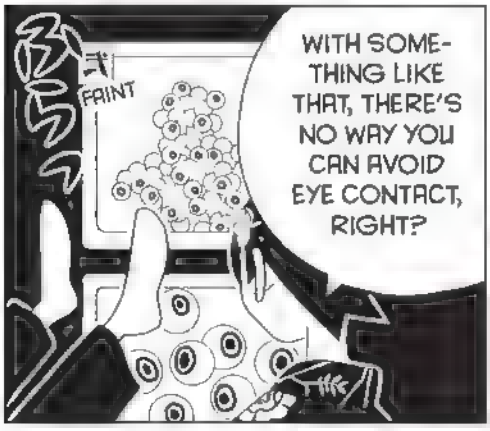


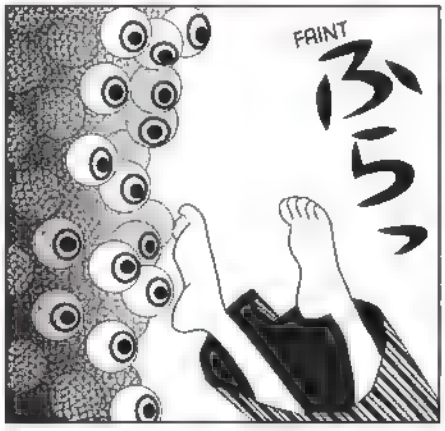
BECAUSE THE ULTIMATE "LOOKING PRO" IS ALREADY LIVING RIGHT HERE IN THIS ESTATE.
ぴ——ーん PING
YOU DON'T HAVE TO HIRE SUCH KILLER EYES...

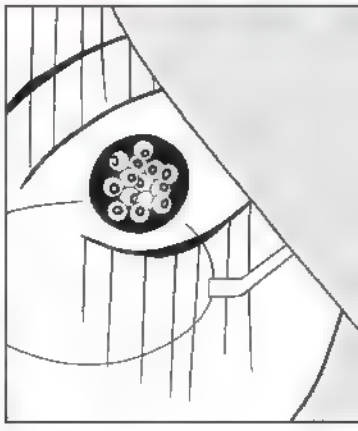
*SEE TRANSLATION NOTES.



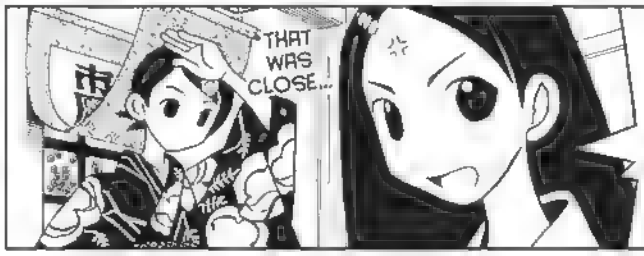

HYAKUME KOZOU
GOBLIN WITH A HUNDRED EYES

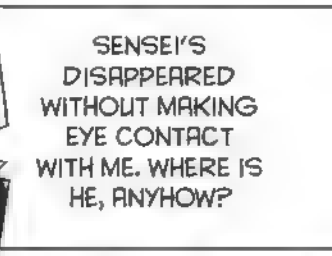

FAINT
WITH SOMETHING LIKE THAT, THERE'S NO WAY YOU CAN AVOID EYE CONTACT, RIGHT?


FAINT
ふらっ



HE'S NOT HERE!


THAT WAS CLOSE...


SENSEI'S DISAPPEARED WITHOUT MAKING EYE CONTACT WITH ME. WHERE IS HE, ANYHOW?

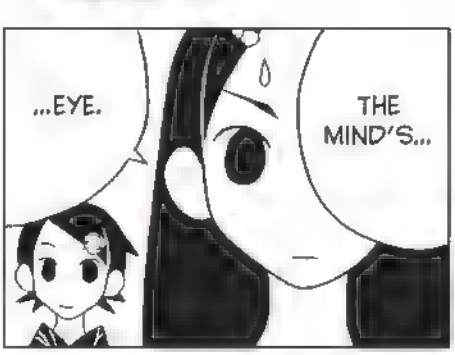
YOU'RE TRYING TOO HARD TO FIND HIM, THAT'S WHY YOU CAN'T SEE HIM.

HE'S NOT HERE EITHER!

HE'S NOT HERE!

BUT IF YOU USE YOUR MIND'S EYE, YOU CAN SEE EVERYTHING.

FLASH
WITH MY MIND'S EYE!


...EYE.
THE MIND'S...

BING
I CAN SEE!

OMMM...
OMM...

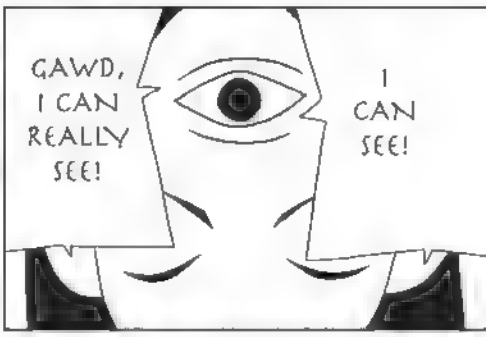
THIS, CHIRI-SAN, IS MOST CERTAINLY...

THIS IMAGE I'M SEEING IS JUST AN ILLUSION, RIGHT? IT'S JUST AN ILLUSION, RIGHT?
YIKES!
BING
SENSEI IS SOMEWHERE UNDER-GROUND IN THE WEST SIDE OF THE ESTATE.

I BET YOU SET UP THIS WHOLE SCARY SCENE JUST SO YOU COULD MAKE THAT PUN!
...CLAIRVOYANCE!

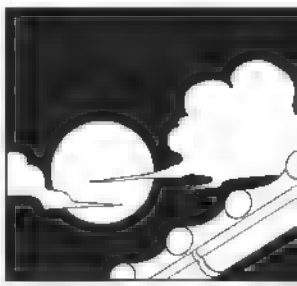
I FEEL LIKE SOMEONE'S EYES ARE PIERCING THROUGH MY BACK.
ぞくぞく SHIVER
むくり WOOZY

ぞわぞわ URRGH


GAWD, I CAN REALLY SEE!
I CAN SEE!

I'M OUTTA HERE!
I SEE, WE'RE HEADING IN A BAD, BAD DIRECTION...
I CAN SEE THE FUTURE OF THIS COUNTRY...OUR OWN FUTURES...

にぼんたーか! MRRRROWR!
NOW, MY LITTLE PUSSYCAT. COME ON, LET YOUR EYES MEET MINE!



OHH YEAH! IT'S MARRIAGE TIME!

はちこーん DEAD ON

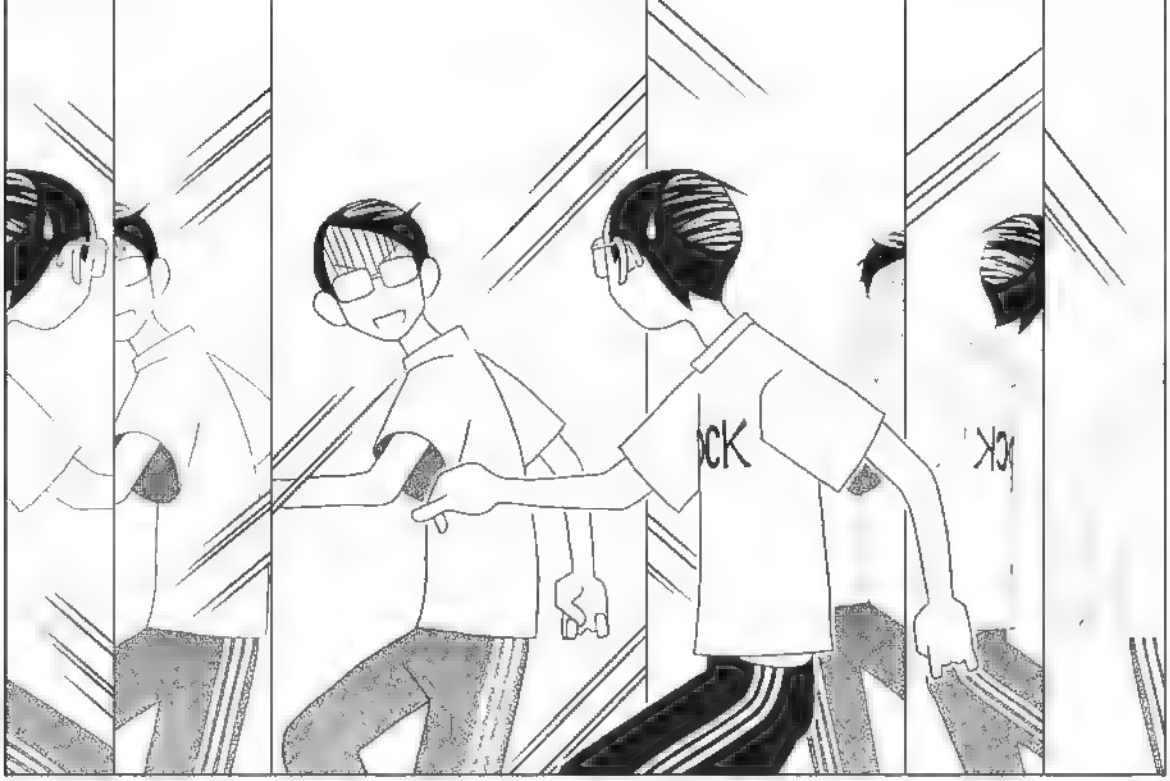
YEAH. HOW CREEPY.
NO ONE'S HERE, BUT I HEARD A VOICE.
HOW ODD.
LET'S NAME OUR FIRST KID KNIGHT, AND THE SECOND ONE ELF!
DIDJA SEE THAT?! OUR EYES MET!

I KNOW! IN ORDER TO NOT BE SEEN...
I JUST DON'T WANT TO BE SEEN.
IT WAS SO FRIGHTENING THAT IT SEEMS THE DOORS TO MY MEMORY HAVE CLOSED.
I FEEL AS THOUGH I'VE SEEN SOMETHING DREADFULLY FRIGHTENING.
DIZZY
THEY'RE TREATING ME LIKE THAT AGAIN!

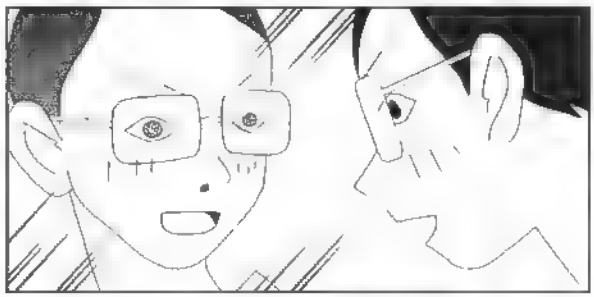
• F1 RACE WITH ONLY SIX CARS
• SEVERELY EMACIATED PARENTS
• A CERTAIN IDOL WITH BIG BOOBS AND SOMETHING ELSE THAT'S BIG BESIDES HER BOOBS
• CELEBRITIES WHO SELL GEMS
• SAWA'S SWIMSUIT
• THE BACK OF THE HAIR OF A HANSHIN ACE
• THE "TRAIN MAN" AT COMIKET
• THE TIME MY EDITOR APPEARED ON *ITOMO*
• THE INNOCENT, NAÏVE EYES OF CHILDREN
I'LL TURN MYSELF INTO *SOMETHING THAT'S UNBEARABLE TO LOOK AT!*

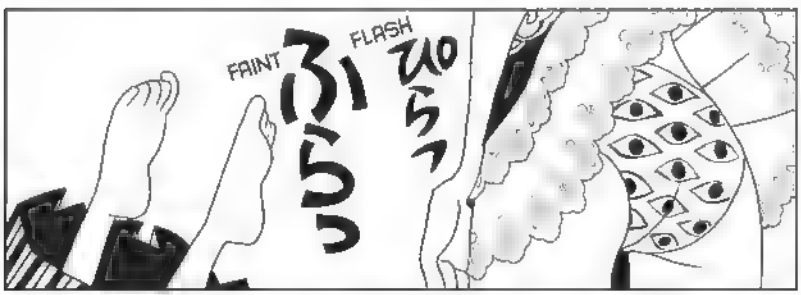
* HIS DIALOGUE AND THIS LIST ARE TOTALLY UNRELATED.

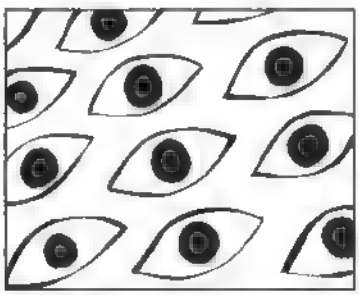
WHY IS THAT THE ONLY THING YOU SEE?!
ON A YOUNG HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT, THAT'S UNBEARABLE TO LOOK AT!
.....
OH DEAR... THAT ROOM IS...
DAMN IT ALL!
I am father.

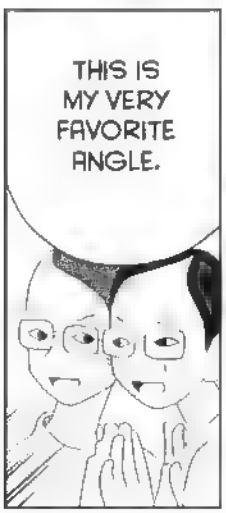


I LOVE...
...MYSELF.




FAINT
ふらっ
FLASH
ぴらっ



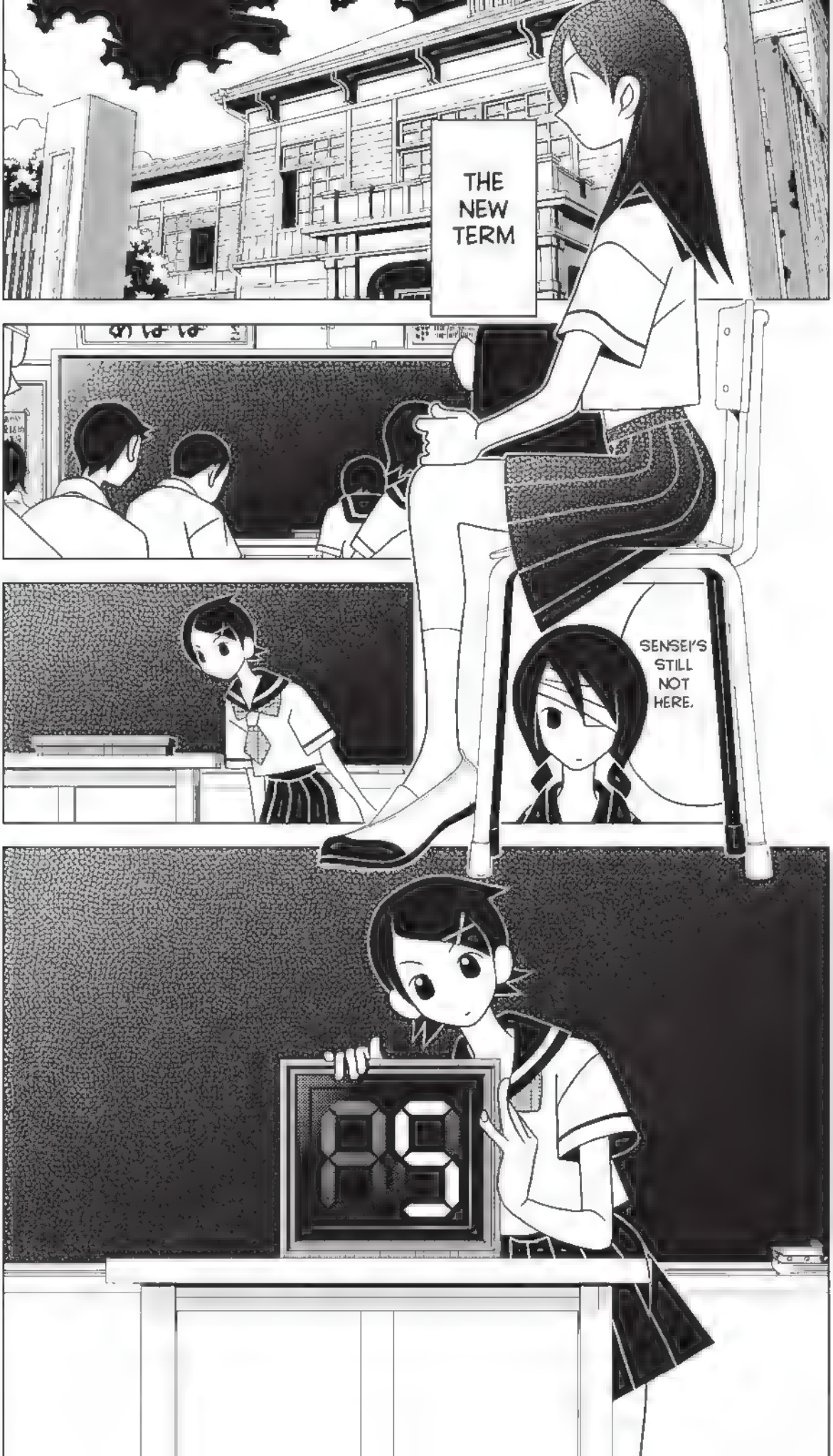

THIS IS MY VERY FAVORITE ANGLE.

ORDINARY TRAIN
GAWD! EVEN GOING HOME!

HEY, YOU GUYS! I'VE FINALLY MADE IT HERE!
WE WERE JUST ABOUT TO LEAVE.

MEANWHILE, FUJIYOSHI-SAN...

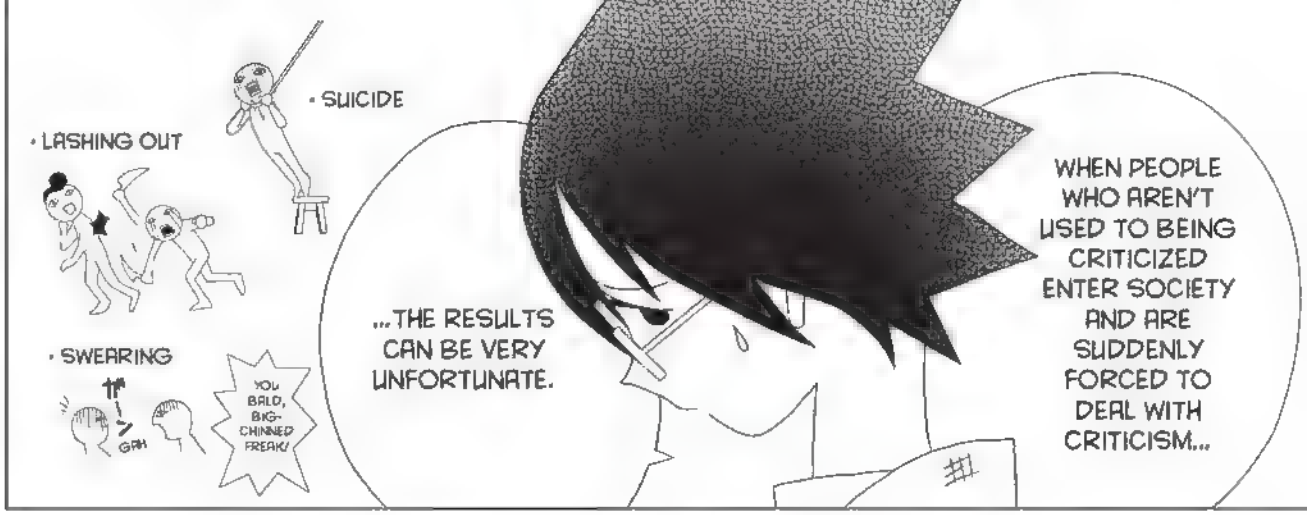
CHAPTER 19

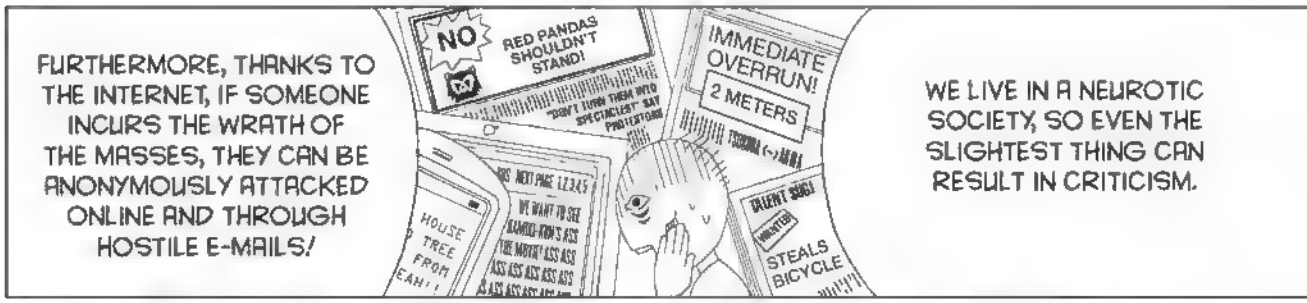

THE NEW TERM
SENSEI'S STILL NOT HERE.
89

I SEE.
IT PROBABLY MEANS THAT THERE WERE FIVE DAYS OF LOST TIME DURING THE SUMMER BREAK.
WHAT'S THAT?
IT SAYS HE'LL BE COMING ON THE SIXTH.
TIME LOSS DETAILS
"I'VE LOST FIVE DAYS' TIME DUE TO HAVING TO LEAD SCHOOL EXPEDITIONS AND FOR BEING VISITED AT HOME."
UH-OH, HE'S BEING DRAGGED IN.
WELL, IT JUST DOESN'T WORK THAT WAY.
YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE A RESPONSIBLE ADULT!
SENSEI, WILL YOU STOP DOING SUCH THINGS?!
YOU'VE HURT ME DEEPLY!
I HAD A VERY GOOD UPBRINGING, SO I AM NOT ACCUSTOMED TO BEING CRITICIZED!
AH!
YOU CRITICIZED ME JUST NOW, DIDN'T YOU!

HE'S STARTING TO CHANGE.
W-WELL... IN ORDER TO NOT BE SUCH A WEAK-HEARTED ADULT...
.....
I'M NOT STOPPING YOU.
MAYBE I'LL KILL MYSELF.
...CRITICISM TRAINING!
NOW'S THE TIME TO EXECUTE...
NO, I MEAN CRITICISM TRAINING.
DON'T YOU MEAN "ESCAPE TRAINING"?
CRITICISM TRAINING

*SEE TRANSLATION NOTES.


• SUICIDE
• LASHING OUT
• SWEARING
YOU BALD, BIG-CHINNED FREAK!
...THE RESULTS CAN BE VERY UNFORTUNATE.
WHEN PEOPLE WHO AREN'T USED TO BEING CRITICIZED ENTER SOCIETY AND ARE SUDDENLY FORCED TO DEAL WITH CRITICISM...


FURTHERMORE, THANKS TO THE INTERNET, IF SOMEONE INCURS THE WRATH OF THE MASSES, THEY CAN BE ANONYMOUSLY ATTACKED ONLINE AND THROUGH HOSTILE E-MAILS!
NO
RED PANDAS SHOULDN'T STAND!
IMMEDIATE OVERRUN!
2 METERS
STEALS BICYCLE
WE LIVE IN A NEUROTIC SOCIETY, SO EVEN THE SLIGHTEST THING CAN RESULT IN CRITICISM.

...OR ELSE WE'LL BE IN A TERRIBLE MESS.
WE HAVE TO START GETTING USED TO BEING CRITICIZED...

I'M IN DESPAIR WITH OUR CRITICAL SOCIETY!
I'M IN DESPAIR!

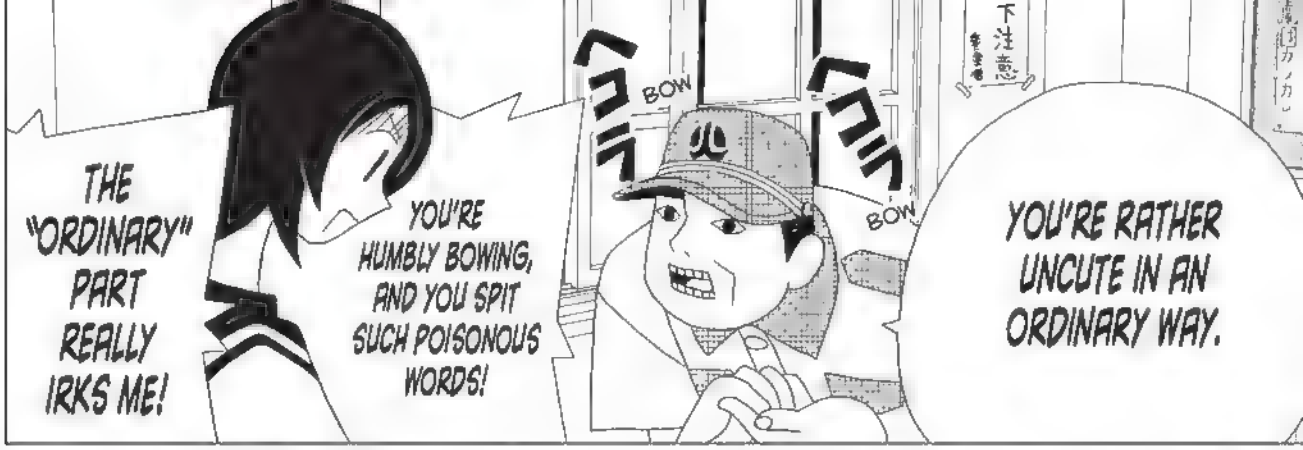
WHO ARE YOU?
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
WHAT A FABULOUS NEW FORM OF DISASTER PREPAREDNESS! I'M MOST IMPRESSED!

I'LL BE LEADING THIS CLASS IN CRITICISM TRAINING.
I'M HERE FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT.

じ——っ
STARE
I'LL START RIGHT AWAY.
IS THAT SO? WELL, WE'RE COUNTING ON YOU.
FAT-ASS!
WHY WOULD YOU SAY SUCH A THING?!
THAT'S MEAN!
ニヤリ
SNEER
YOU'RE IN TRAINING.
HUH?
YOU'VE INSULTED A NET IDOL. MY FANS WON'T FORGIVE YOU!
WHAT? NOT EVEN ONCE?
NO ONE'S EVER CALLED ME THAT, SINCE THE DAY I WAS BORN!
FAT-ASS!
GRRR
YOU SAID IT AGAIN!
THIS IS TRAINING TO PREPARE YOU, JUST IN CASE SOMEONE CALLS YOU THAT ONE DAY...

...BUT THERE ISN'T ONE THING THAT YOU CAN CRITICIZE ME FOR.
SORRY TO DISAP-POINT YOU...
GLANCE
ちらっ
HMM... WHO'S NEXT?
じーっ
STARE
...STINKS LIKE CHEAP CHEWIN' GUM.
THE SHAMPOO THAT YOU'RE USING...
CHIRI-CHAN... YOUR HAIR...
...LIKE CHEAP CHEWING GUM!
SNAP
SNAP
MY SHAMPOO DOESN'T SMELL...
GA-BOINGGG
SNAP
APOLOGIZE! WITH ALL YOUR HEART AND SOUL!
ぴっ
TIDY
WHAT DO YOU EXPECT?! I TOLD YOU, THIS IS TRAINING!
SNEER
ニカッ

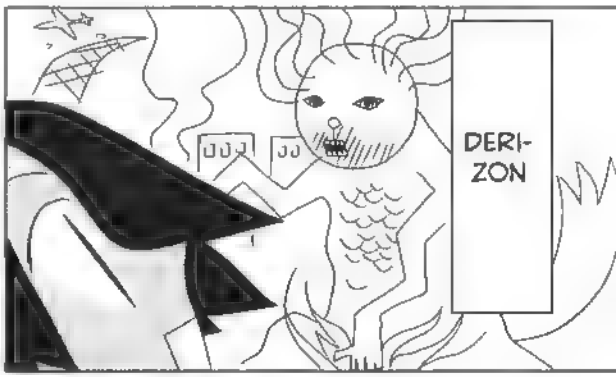
REPEAT AFTER ME... "GUM SHAM"...
WELL, EVERYONE. PLEASE DO AS I SAY AND START CRITICIZING YOUR CLASSMATE.
ER... UM... OKAY.
NOW IT'S YOUR TURN, SENSEI! YOU HAVE TO JOIN IN, OR THIS CRITICISM TRAINING WILL BE INCOMPLETE!
GUM-SHAM!
GUM-SHAM!
GUM-SHAM!
GUM-SHAM!
EXCUSE ME. IN A THOUGHTLESS MOMENT, I GOT SWAYED BY A BAD ADULT.
I'M DEEPLY HURT! I'LL HAVE YOU TAKE FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIS!
MAKING FUN OF ME FOR NO REASON...
H-HOW COULD YOU?!
EEEK
CLASS 2-F
CHARACTER GUIDE
MANGA FOUR-EYES!
HMM... WHO'S NEXT?
AH, YOU'RE RIGHT, KAFUKA-CHAN.
IF YOU'RE GOING TO CRITICIZE, YOU'D BETTER DUCK LOW TO AVOID THE SMOKE.
OVER HERE! I'VE GOT A SUGGES-TION.
MANGA FOUR-EYES!
FOUR-EYES!
FOUR-EYES!


THE "ORDINARY" PART REALLY IRKS ME!
YOU'RE HUMBLY BOWING, AND YOU SPIT SUCH POISONOUS WORDS!
BON
BON
YOU'RE RATHER UNCUTE IN AN ORDINARY WAY.

"DERIZON"?
DERISION IS FLYING EVERY-WHERE!

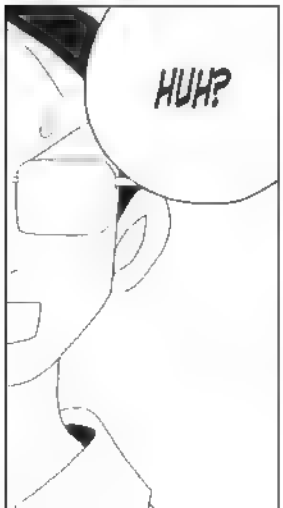
NOW I'M DOUBLE PISSED.
BON
BON
CHEESY, GOOFY PERMED HAIR SENPAI.

WELL, IT'S NOT A MONSTER...
WHAT KIND OF MONSTER IS DERIZON? DOES IT BREATHE FIRE?


DERI-ZON

I'M GONNA GET CRITICIZED...
OOOH... THIS IS BAD...

STARE


HUH?

PIERCED JIZO!

T-THAT'S MEAN.
FLASH
AT THAT MOMENT, A "DIVINE WIND" CAME BLOWING THROUGH THE CLASS-ROOM...
AM I SUPPOSED TO BE THE STEALTH MAN?
WAS I INVISIBLE AGAIN?
HE WAS HERE ALL THIS TIME?
OH...USUI-KUN.
FLYAWAY
はらんり
MY PRESENCE BECOMES LIKE EVERY-ONE ELSE.
LET ME EXPLAIN! WHEN MY SCALP'S VISIBLE...
I'LL CRITICIZE *MYSELF!*
BEFORE I GET CRITICIZED...
I'M SURE TO BE CRITI-CIZED NOW!
BUT NOW THE LOOKS ARE PIERCING!
IT'S FINE THAT I'M NOTICED...

I'VE GOT THINNING HAIR!
YES! I ADMIT IT!

...THEY OFTEN...
WHEN PEOPLE CRITICIZE THEM-SELVES...

HE CALLS THAT "THIN-NING"?
?

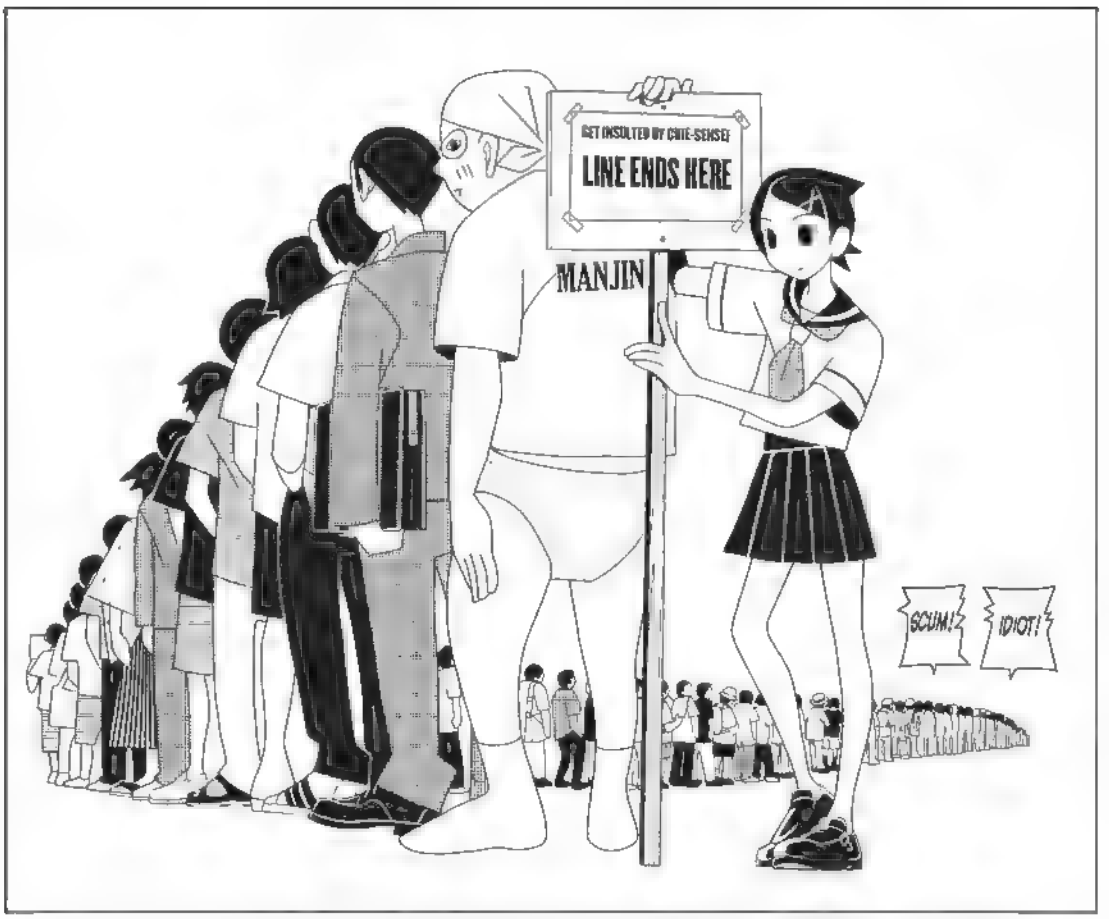
I'M A "BIG BEAUTIFUL WOMAN."
BALDING → THINNING HAIR
SHORT → PETITE
OVERWEIGHT → ROBUST
GREASY, OILY SKIN → GLOWING
DIRTY OLD MAN → HEALTHY APPETITES
FULL → RELATIVE
VIRGIN → WELL, I COULDA GOT LAID, MAN. BUT I DRANK TOO MUCH. THE GIRL GOT MAD AND LEFT, Y'KNOW. YEAH, I KNOW, IT SUCKS.
...SOFTEN THE WORDS TO EASE THE HURT!

WHY DON'T YOU TWO GET TOGETHER?
YOU DARE MAKE FUN OF A NET IDOL! MY FANS WILL ROAST YOU ALIVE!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "BIG BEAUTIFUL WOMAN"? YOU'RE A FATSO!

OH NO!
...GOING BALD...
THIS GUY'S...

IF ONLY A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN WOULD DO IT.
THAT WOULD BE SO CRUEL.
IF THIS CONTINUES, HE'LL BE PICKED ON MERCILESSLY!
BALDY
BALDY
BALDY
GAHH
ME?
BEFORE SOMEONE ELSE DOES!
CHIE-SENSEI, YOU'RE BEAUTIFUL. COULD YOU PLEASE CRITICIZE HIM?
T-THEN... I'LL DO IT.
I-IS THAT SO?
IT'S BETTER TO GET CRITICIZED BY SOMEONE WHO'S BEAUTIFUL.
BALDY!
...BUT BEING TOLD THAT BY A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN MAKES IT KINDA NICE.
THAT'S MEAN...
GASP

OH, PLEASE CRITICIZE ME MORE!
MORE!
O-OKAY, I WILL.
...MY DIRTY OL' BALD HEAD!
HUFF
ふん
ふん
HUFF
PLEASE CURSE...
WHEN CHIE-SENSEI NEEDS TO SAY SOME-THING, SHE REALLY GETS INTO IT.
DYING SCALP HAIR, MILF-LOVING MANIAC WITH A STOCKING FETISH!
あふんが
EXCITED
MORE!
LIVER-HEADED BALDY! FILTHY, WORMY BALDY!
HEY, THAT'S NOT FAIR!
CHEESY, GOOFY, PERMED HAIR SENPAI!
IS EVERY MAN IN THIS CLASS A MASOCHIST?
DIG YOUR HEELS INTO ME!
ME TOO!
ME TOO!
CURSE ME OUT TOO!


GET INSULTED BY CUTE-SENSEI
LINE ENDS HERE
MANJIN
SCUM!
IDIOT!

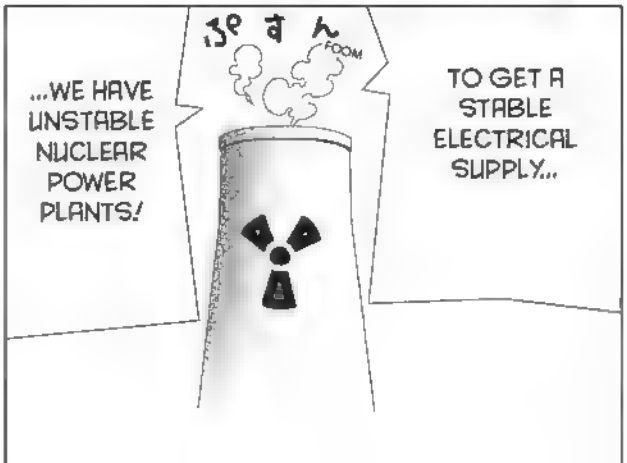
CHAPTER 20

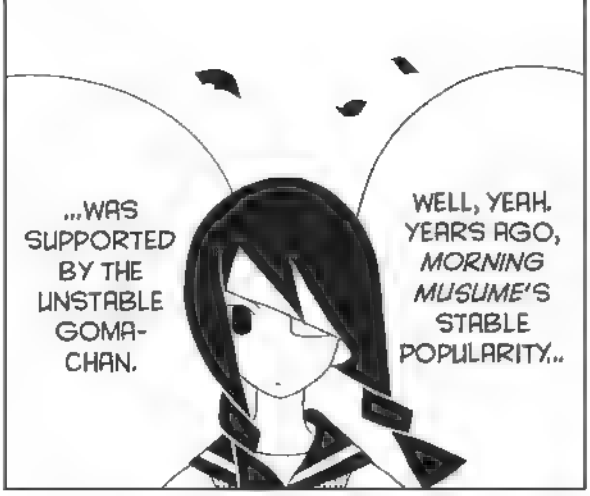
7:50
台風17号
CONTINUING IN FROM THE NORTH, TYPHOON NO. 17 IS NOW CREATING GALE-FORCE WINDS THROUGHOUT THE KYUSHU REGION.
ゴロゴロ
RRUMBLE
井
THIS WEATHER SURE IS UNSTABLE.
WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL ABOUT UNSTABLE WEATHER?

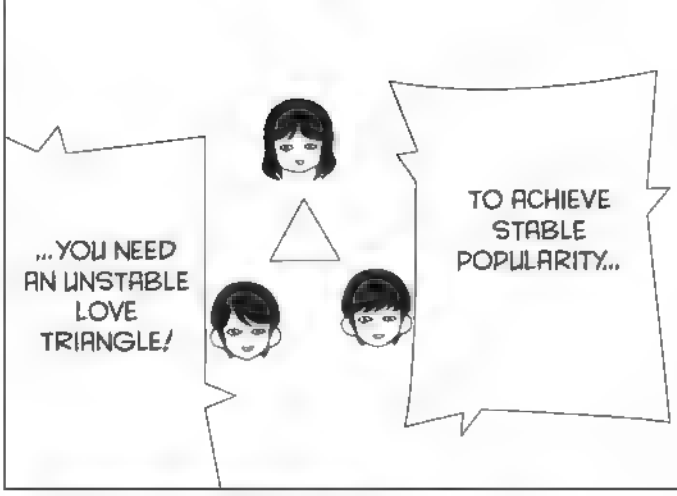
I'M MUCH MORE UNSTABLE THAN ANY WEATHER!
IF YOU NEED AN EXAMPLE OF HOW UNSTABLE I AM...
...I MIGHT GO TO AN IZUMI OOGAMI AUTOGRAPHING EVENT ON A CLEAR, SUNNY SUNDAY.
OH BOY... THAT SOUNDS PRETTY UNSTABLE.
RECENTLY MY ACTIONS HAVE ALL BEEN UNSTABLE!
GOING FULL CIRCLE ON THE YAMANOTE LINE WITHOUT REA. Z NG IT...
FOLDING PAPER ORIGAMI CRANES AT STARBUCKS...
BUYING T-SH RTS THAT I'D NEVER NORMALLY WEAR...

* HIS WORDS HAVE NO RELATIONSHIP TO THE OBJECTS FLYING IN THE BACKGROUND.

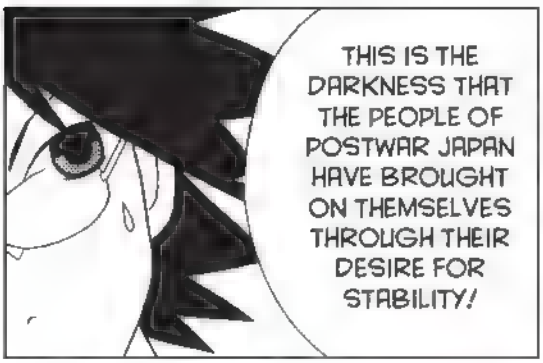
...WE HAVE UNSTABLE ADMINIS-TRATIVE SERVICES!
THIS DESK IS CLOSED
NO WILL TO WORK
PLEASE GO TO NEXT COUNTER
GRRR
FOR GOVERN-MENT EMPLOYEES TO HAVE STABLE LIVES...







- A STABLE MAJORITY → AN UNSTABLE GOVERNMENT COALITION
- COST CUTS FOR A STABLE BUSINESS → UNSTABLE AIRPLANES
- STABLE BODY PROPORTIONS → UNSTABLE DIET
- STABLE TRAIN SCHEDULE → UNSTABLE DRIVERS
- STABLE MAGAZINE SALES → UNSTABLE FAMILY SITUATION WHERE THE EDITOR'S WIFE LEFT HIM, TAKING THE PLASMA TV



YOU KNOW WHY PEOPLE ARE AFRAID OF EARTHQUAKES?

LIKE WHAT?

"UNSTABLE TENDENCIES"?

...THEY WOULDN'T BE THAT SCARY!

IF EARTHQUAKES SHOOK THINGS ALL THE TIME...

IT'S BECAUSE THEY ONLY HAPPEN ONCE IN A WHILE!

...WE'D ALL BE PREPARED FOR 'EM!

WHAT I MEAN IS, IF INSTABILITIES WERE EVERYWHERE...

LEAVE STABILITY BEHIND!

SO, ALL OF YOU... MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO BE UNSTABLE!

SO, EVEN WHAT I SAY CHANGES CONSTANTLY.

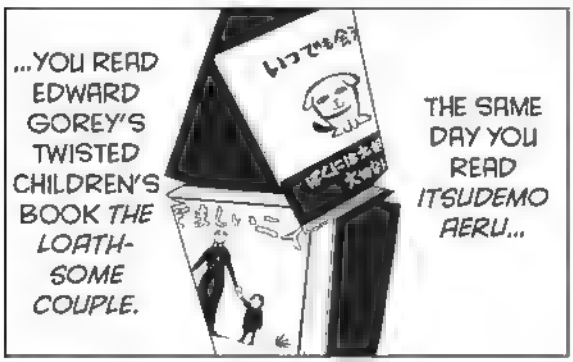
THAT'S BECAUSE I'M *UNSTABLE*, REMEMBER?

FOR FAMILIES AND SUCH, IT SURE IS NICE TO HAVE STABILITY.

OH, BUT...

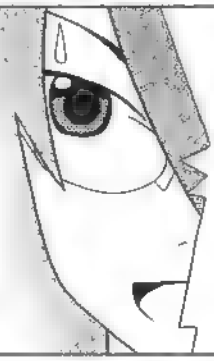
HEY, YOU'RE CONTRADICTING YOURSELF!

WE LIVE IN UNSTABLE TIMES!
YOU'D BETTER WORK LIKE HELL!
WORK HARD, BUT DON'T PUT TOO MUCH PRESSURE ON YOURSELF
IT'S A BATTLE MANGA!
IT'S A LOVE COMEDY!
MOST BOSSES IN JAPAN CHANGE WHAT THEY SAY FROM ONE DAY TO ANOTHER!



...TODAY, WITH THE SAME EARS, YOU LISTEN TO THE BLACK METAL BAND VENOM AND WORSHIP THE DEVIL!
Venom
YESTERDAY YOU LISTENED TO MAHALIA JACKSON'S GOSPEL SONGS WITH TEARS IN YOUR EYES...

TOMORROW (PLAN)	TODAY	YESTERDAY		
BEANS	RAW MEAT	GRILLED FISH		CAT FOOD:
ANIMATOR	COMPANY PRESIDENT	MUSICIAN		FUTURE DREAM:
MATAYOSHI	LIBERAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY	DEMOCRATIC PARTY		POLITICAL PARTY:
SHOKO HAMADA	ASAMI KUMAKIRI	CHISA YOKOYAMA		FAVORITE IDOL:



EVERYTHING WE DO IS UNSTABLE!

FAVORITE TAIL RANKINGS

NO. 1	ELEPHANT TURTLE	←	NO. 1	FENNEC FOX
NO. 2	JAPANESE GRASS LIZARD	←	NO. 2	LESSER PANDA
		←	NO. 3	GIANT ANTEATER
		←	NO. 4	BUSHY-TAILED
		←	NO. 5	SPIDER MONKEY

BUT THIS WEEK, THEY WERE LIKE THIS!

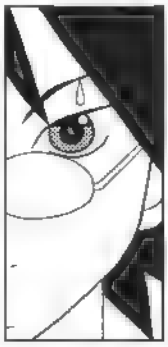
LAST WEEK, THEY WERE LIKE THIS...

FUJIYOSHI-SAN...
TEACHER, I'M UNSTABLE TOO!

ER...I KIND OF WONDER MYSELF.
YOU CALL THAT UNSTABLE?

I STARTED TO THINK MAYBE YZAK-ON-DEARKA WOULD BE GOOD TOO!
RECENTLY, I WAS STEADFASTLY DEARKA-ON-YZAK, BUT SUDDENLY...

DON'T CALL THAT ORDINARY!
HOW ORDI-NARY.

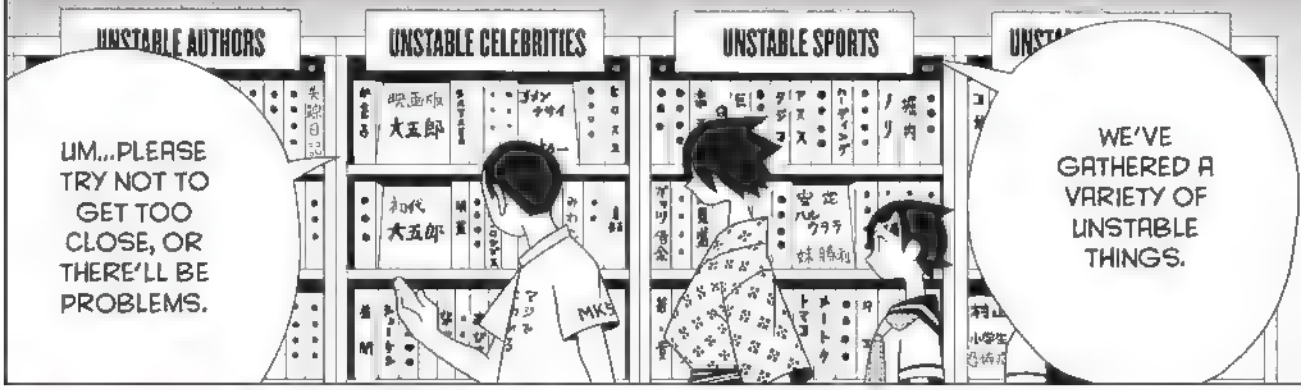


I FEEL REALLY UNSTABLE WHEN I WATCH SHOWS LIKE BLACK HOSPITAL.
RECENTLY I'VE BEEN UNSTABLE TOO.

THIS IS A NATIONAL MUSEUM OF INSTABILITY.
不安定博物館(仮)

I'M STARTING TO FEEL UNSTABLE, SO I'M NOT GOING TO SCHOOL.
TODAY WE'LL DO OUR STUDIES OUT-SIDE!

HELLO, AND WELCOME.
THIS PLACE IS A REPOSITORY OF UNSTABLE THINGS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD.
THIS WAY
FIVE SECONDS BEFORE SERIOUSLY LOSING IT
30 PATHS
UZUMAKI
Current Entry Fee


UNSTABLE AUTHORS
UNSTABLE CELEBRITIES
UNSTABLE SPORTS
UM...PLEASE TRY NOT TO GET TOO CLOSE, OR THERE'LL BE PROBLEMS.
WE'VE GATHERED A VARIETY OF UNSTABLE THINGS.

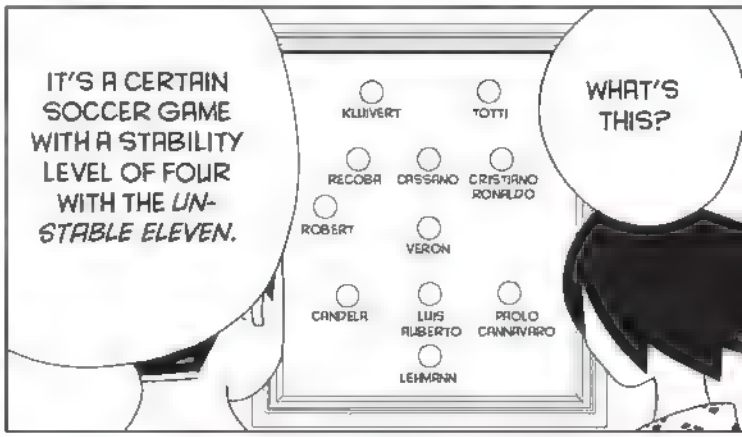
AND IN HERE, WE KEEP *MAGAZINES WITH UNSTABLE CIRCULATIONS.*
I'D RATHER NOT GO THERE, BECAUSE IT PUTS ME IN AN UNSTABLE POSITION.

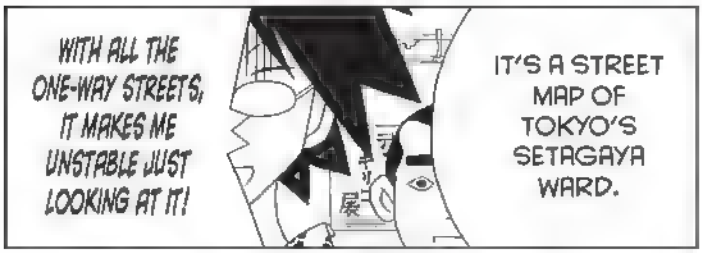
UNSTABLE ENGINES THAT KEEP IDLING...
FISS...

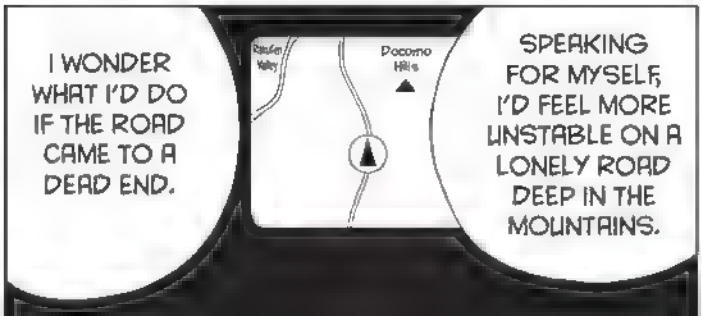
YOU'LL CHOOSE IN ANOTHER YEAR?
Faked News
Asahi Newspaper
NEWSPAPERS WITH UNSTABLE EDITORIALS...

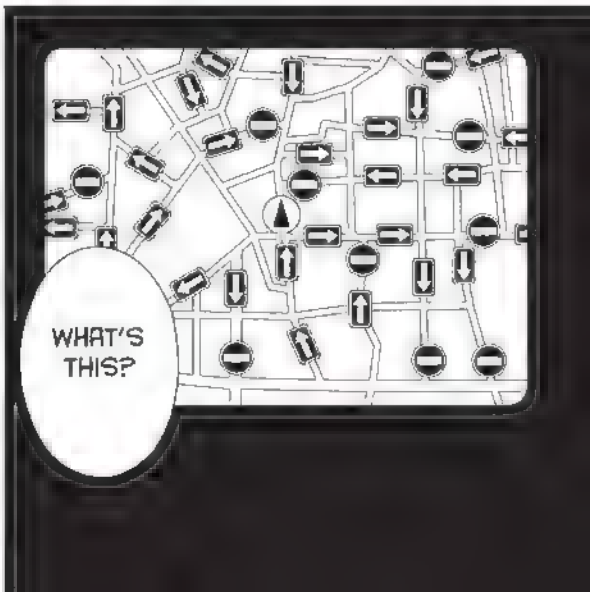
UNSTABLE MOVIES...
GANKUTSUOU
BLAIR WITCH PROJECT

WE'VE PUT TOGETHER THINGS THAT'LL MAKE YOU UNSTABLE BY JUST LOOKING AT THEM.
AND WHAT ELSE DO YOU HAVE HERE?

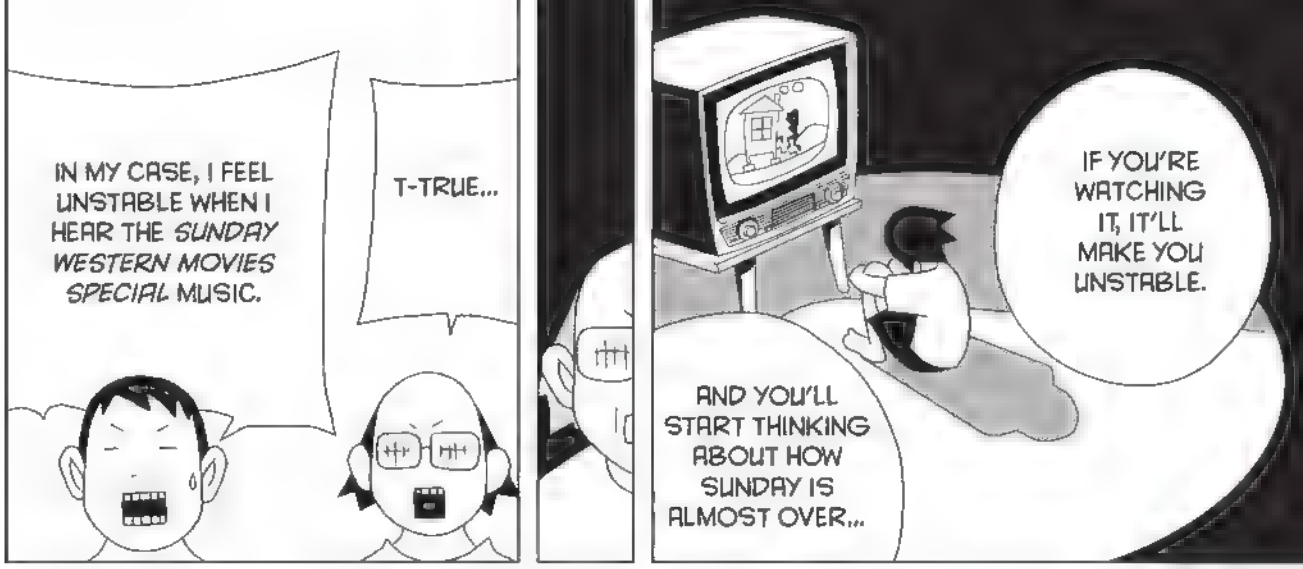

IT'S A CERTAIN SOCCER GAME WITH A STABILITY LEVEL OF FOUR WITH THE *UNSTABLE ELEVEN.*
KLUIVERT
TOTTI
RECOBA
CASSANO
CRISTIANO RONALDO
ROBERT
VERON
CANDELA
LUIS ALBERTO
PAOLO CANNAVARO
LEHMANN
WHAT'S THIS?


WITH ALL THE ONE-WAY STREETS, IT MAKES ME UNSTABLE JUST LOOKING AT IT!
IT'S A STREET MAP OF TOKYO'S SETAGAYA WARD.

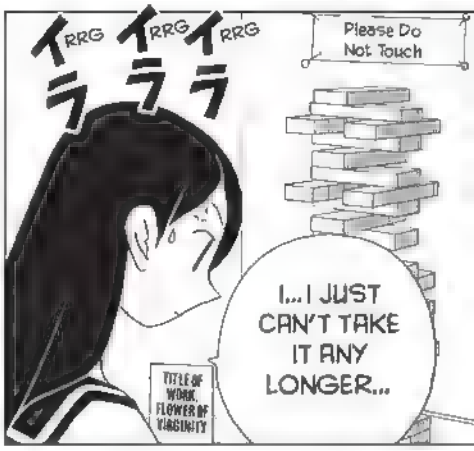

I WONDER WHAT I'D DO IF THE ROAD CAME TO A DEAD END.
Docomo Hills
SPEAKING FOR MYSELF, I'D FEEL MORE UNSTABLE ON A LONELY ROAD DEEP IN THE MOUNTAINS.

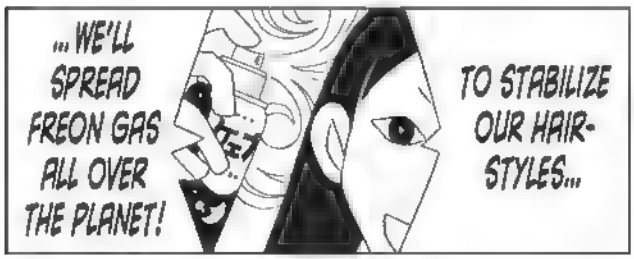

WHAT'S THIS?

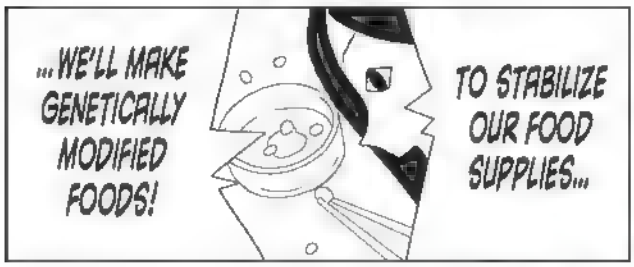
IT MAKES ME UNSTABLE JUST LOOKING AT IT!
WHAT WAS THE REAL ONE LIKE, ANYWAY?
THIS IS AN EMPEROR PENGUIN THAT I DREW FROM MEMORY.
AHH... IT'S MAKING ME UNSTABLE!
BLUE SKIES...
IT'S MAKING ME UNSTABLE!
STRANGE STAINS ON THE WALL...
IT'S MAKING ME UNSTABLE!
ASBESTOS CEILINGS...
WITH HANSHIN, THE SEVENTH, EIGHTH, AND NINTH INNINGS (WILLIAMS, FUJIKAWA, AND KUBOTA) HAVE BEEN TOO STABLE.
GLOBAL DESTABILIZATION CONFERENCE
A GLOBAL DESTABILIZATION CONFERENCE IS BEING HELD.
Meeting in Session
AND THEN THERE ARE THOSE WHO TRY TO MAKE STABLE THINGS MORE UNSTABLE.
YEAHHH! WE DESTABILIZED THE HELL OUT OF IT!
NOW THAT'S UNSTABLE!
WILLIAMS
↓
FUJIKAWA
↓
MICELI
↓
KUBOTA
LET'S ACQUIRE ANOTHER ATHLETE AND DESTABILIZE THE PLAY.
AND IT'S STABLE, PREDICT-ABLE ENTERTAIN-MENT!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?! IT HAS A STABLE VIEWER-SHIP!
BUT... YOU SEE...
FIVE SECONDS BEFORE SERIOUSLY
TOILET
YOU'RE RIGHT.
THE NEXT ORDER OF BUSINESS IS TO SOMEHOW DESTABILIZE SAZAE-SAN.
BUT THAT'S ALREADY UNSTABLE.
FIVE SECONDS BEFORE SERIOUSLY


IN MY CASE, I FEEL UNSTABLE WHEN I HEAR THE *SUNDAY WESTERN MOVIES SPECIAL* MUSIC.
T-TRUE...
IF YOU'RE WATCHING IT, IT'LL MAKE YOU UNSTABLE.
AND YOU'LL START THINKING ABOUT HOW SUNDAY IS ALMOST OVER...

I'LL LEAD THE WORLD TO STABILITY!
ALL THESE UNSTABLE THINGS DRIVE ME CRAZY!


イRRG イRRG イRRG
ラ ラ ラ
Please Do Not Touch
I...I JUST CAN'T TAKE IT ANY LONGER...
TITLE OF WORK. FLOWER OF VIRGINITY

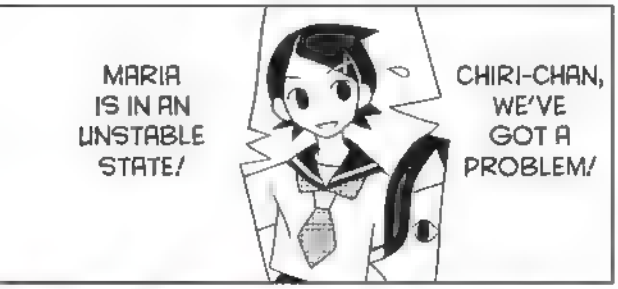

...WE'LL SPREAD FREON GAS ALL OVER THE PLANET!
TO STABILIZE OUR HAIR-STYLES...


...WE'LL MAKE GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOODS!
TO STABILIZE OUR FOOD SUPPLIES...

IF YOU FORCE UNSTABLE THINGS TO BECOME STABLE, THERE'LL BE TERRIBLE CONSEQUENCES!
S-STOP IT!
SHAAA

...WE'LL GROW KUBOZUKA-KUN'S FAVORITE WEED!
TO STABILIZE THE WORLD PAPER SUPPLY...

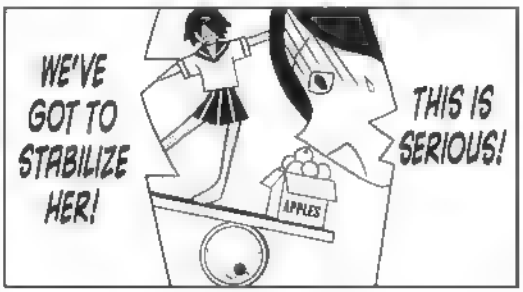
AND TO STABILIZE OUR MINDS, WE MIGHT AS WELL JOIN A RELIGION!


MARIA IS IN AN UNSTABLE STATE!
CHIRI-CHAN, WE'VE GOT A PROBLEM!

...IT'S BETTER TO STAY UNSTABLE!
IF THAT'S THE PRICE OF STABILITY...

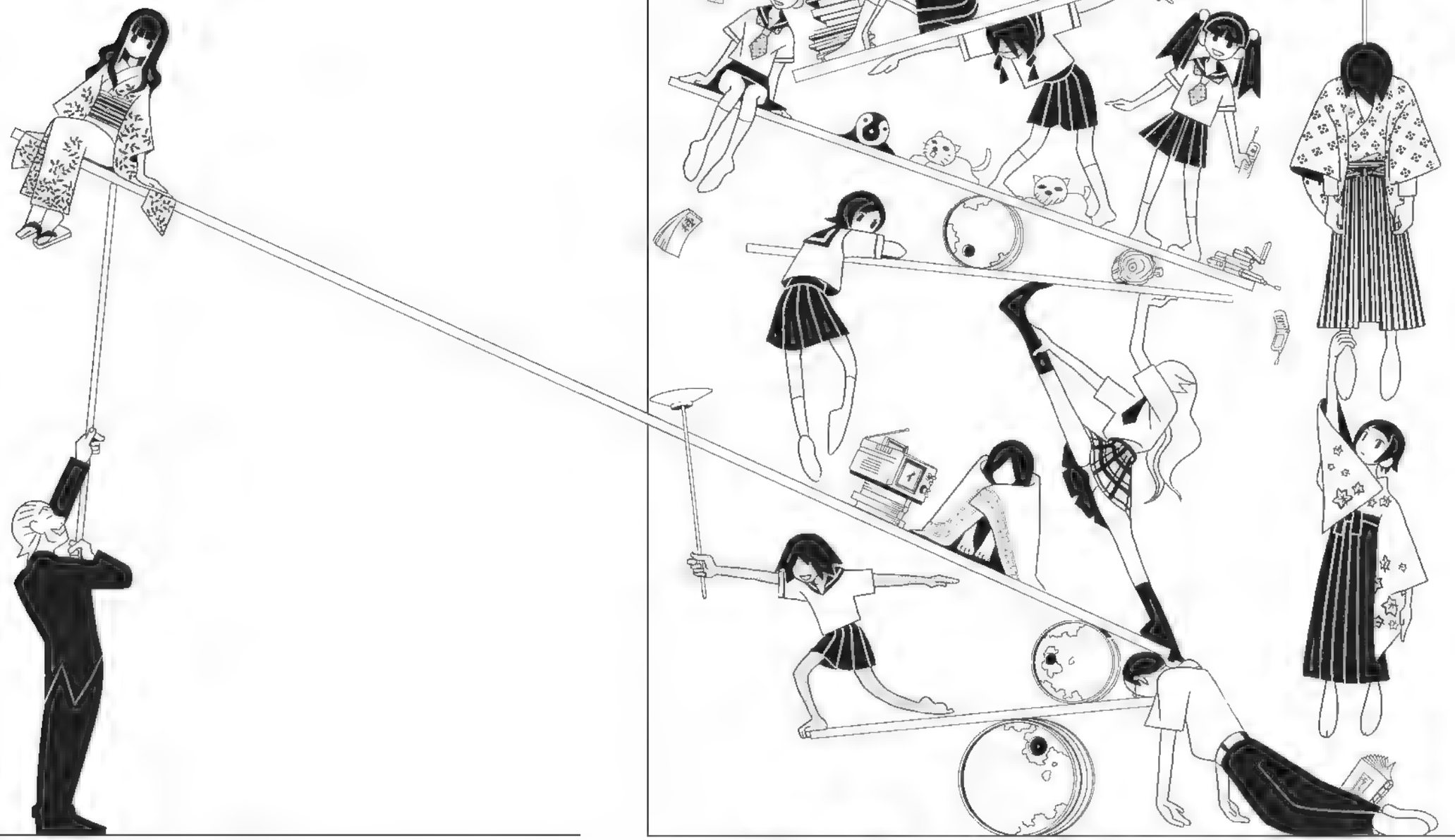
AGGHHHH
いやぁぁぁぁぁ

?
EVERY-ONE! COME AND HELP!

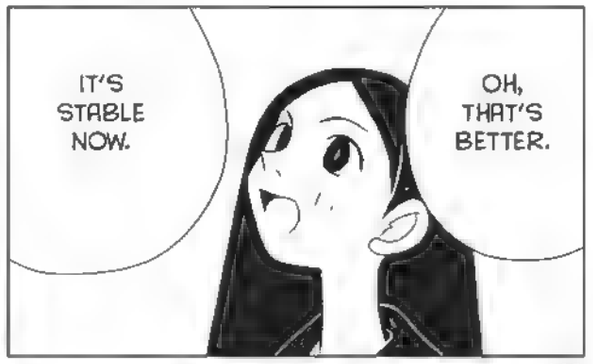

WE'VE GOT TO STABILIZE HER!
APPLES
THIS IS SERIOUS!

YOU'LL BE STABLE IN NO TIME!
TEACHER, IF YOU'RE FEELING UNSTABLE, COME OVER HERE!

I FEEL LIKE I WANT TO DIE AGAIN.
UH-OH. I'M REALLY FEELING UNSTABLE.



...STABLE?
Y-YOU CALL THIS...


IT'S STABLE NOW.
OH, THAT'S BETTER.

CURRENT CHARGES FROM THIS ISSUE

LETTER OF ACCUSATION

PLAINTIFF:
OCCUPATION: STUDENT
NAME: KAERE KIMURA

DEFENDANT:
OCCUPATION: FORMER STORE OWNER
NAME: PERRY (ASSUMED NAME)

DATE: JULY 13
ATTN: CHIEF OF POLICE

- PURPOSE OF ACCUSATION
THE ACTS BY THE DEFENDANT, AS STATED BELOW, ARE DEEMED TO COME UNDER CRIMINAL LAW, ARTICLE 176 (FORCIBLE ACT OF LEWDNESS), AND THIS COMPLAINT IS MADE TO PURSUE SEVERE PUNISHMENT TO BE HANDED OUT TO THE DEFENDANT.

- FACTS OF THE ACCUSATION
AT ABOUT 1:00 P.M., WITHIN THE SCHOOL PREMISES, THE DEFENDANT SHOUTED, "HEY THERE, LITTLE GIRL, OPEN UP!" WHILE SIMULTANEOUSLY ASSAULTING ME.

AT THE TIME, I WAS CARRYING A BAG, AND WITH MY HANDS FULL, I WAS UNABLE TO FLEE FROM THE DEFENDANT. HE GRABBED ME BY MY ANKLES, HUNG ME UPSIDE DOWN, AND FORC BLY PEEKED AT MY PANTIES, THEREBY COMMITTING A LEWD ACT.

THE ACT BY THE DEFENDANT IS CONSIDERED TO FALL UNDER CRIMINAL LAW, ARTICLE 176 (CRIME OF FORCIBLE ACT OF LEWDNESS), SO I HEREBY FILE A COMPLAINT SO THAT SEVERE PUNISHMENT MAY BE HANDED TO THE DEFENDANT.

EVIDENCE
1. WITNESS: NOZOMU ITOSHIKI
2. WITNESS: CLASSMATE A

LETTER OF ACCUSATION

PLAINTIFF:
OCCUPATION: STUDENT
NAME: KAERE KIMURA

DEFENDANT:
OCCUPATION: BUTLER
NAME: TOKITA

DATE: AUGUST 31
ATTN: CHIEF OF POLICE

- PURPOSE OF ACCUSATION
THE ACTS BY THE DEFENDANT AS STATED BELOW ARE CONSIDERED TO FALL UNDER CRIMINAL LAW, ARTICLE 230 (CRIME OF DEFAMATION OF CHARACTER), AND THIS COMPLAINT IS MADE TO PURSUE SEVERE PUNISHMENT TO BE HANDED OUT TO THE DEFENDANT.

- FACTS OF THE ACCUSATION
AT ABOUT 8:00 A.M., I WAS FORCED TO WEAR A KIMONO, ALONG WITH FIVE OTHER FEMALE STUDENTS, AT THE ITOSHIKI FAMILY RESIDENCE IN KARUIZAWA (NAGANO PREFECTURE). FURTHERMORE, WHILE THE KIMONOS WERE BEING ASSIGNED, I WAS SINGLED OUT AND FORCED TO WEAR A KIMONO WITH AN EXCEEDINGLY SHORT HEM.

WHEN I VOICED MY PROTESTS, THE REPLY WAS, "THAT HAS ALREADY BEEN LOOKED INTO." THIS WAS SAID OPENLY, IN FRONT OF EVERYONE, TO GIVE THE IMPRESSION THAT I ALWAYS ENJOY WEARING HIGHLY REVEALING CLOTHING.

THE AFOREMENTIONED ACTS ARE CONSIDERED TO FALL UNDER CRIMINAL LAW, ARTICLE 230 (CRIME OF DEFAMATION OF CHARACTER), AND IN ORDER FOR THE DEFENDANT TO BE GIVEN STRICT PUNISHMENT, I HEREBY MAKE MY CHARGES.

EVIDENCE
1. WITNESS: CLASSMATE A
2. IN-HOUSE VIDEO FROM THE BURGLARY SYSTEM DIVISION OF THE ITOSHIKI RESIDENCE

SUPPLEMENTARY DOCUMENTS
THE ABOVE-MENTIONED VIDEOTAPE — ONE TAPE

PAPER BLOGS

WISHES

WHEN A CONVERSATION STARTS WITH THE PHRASE "I HAVE A FAVOR TO ASK OF YOU," IT'S USUALLY SOMETHING THAT'S NOT COOL. THEY'RE LIKE: LEND ME MONEY, HURRY UP AND TURN IN YOUR MANUSCRIPT, I'VE GOT TO GO TO COMIKET, SO GIVE ME THE DAY OFF.

SO, JUST DON'T ASK. TRY IMAGINING WHAT IT FEELS LIKE TO BE THE STARS, WITH PEOPLE MAKING WISHES ON YOU ALL THE TIME, AND YOU'LL GET AN IDEA OF HOW TOUGH IT IS FOR THEM. WHEN IT'S "THE WISH OF A LIFETIME" THAT MAKES IT EVEN MORE OF A NUISANCE. YOU CAN'T MAKE ANY MORE WISHES, AND YOU DON'T WANT TO HEAR ABOUT THEM EITHER.

I DON'T LIKE PEOPLE WHO MAKE LOTS OF WISHES. IF ONE COMES TRUE, THEY'LL MAKE ANOTHER, AND IF THAT ONE COMES TRUE, THEY'LL MAKE ANOTHER. IT'S ALWAYS "GIMME, GIMME." THERE'S NO END TO IT. I DON'T WANT TO BE DISLIKED, SO I DON'T MAKE WISHES OR REQUESTS OF PEOPLE. EVEN IF MY WISHES WEREN'T GRANTED, I'D BE DISLIKED ANYWAY.

IN THAT CASE, IT MAKES ME WANT TO MAKE A WISH. WHEN SHOULD I MAKE THAT WISH OF A LIFETIME? CAN IT BE TRANSFERRED TO MY NEXT LIFE? I'LL USE IT ON ABOUT MY THIRD LIFE. SINCE IT'S A WISH FOR MY THIRD LIFE, COULD YOU PLEASE TURN ME INTO AN ANIMATED CHARACTER?

OPEN UP

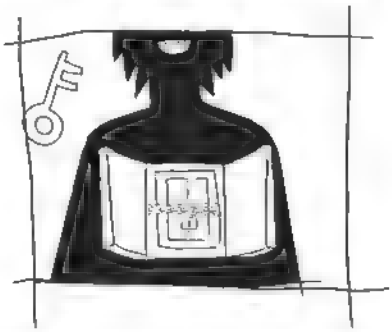
"I DON'T UNDERSTAND YOUR TRUE FEELINGS."

PEOPLE HAVE SAID THAT TO ME FOR AS LONG AS I CAN REMEMBER. EVEN MY PARENTS TOLD ME THAT. MY HOMEROOM TEACHER SAID THAT. YESTERDAY, I MET A PERSON FOR THE FIRST TIME, AND THEY TOLD ME THAT. (WE DIDN'T GET ALONG SO WELL.)

STRANGERS ASK ME TO OPEN UP MY HEART A LITTLE MORE. BUT THAT'S RIDICULOUS. IF I "OPENED MY HEART" AND SPOKE MY TRUE FEELINGS, PEOPLE WOULD CUT OFF RELATIONS WITH ME ON THE SPOT. AS LONG AS I KEEP THIS DISGRACEFUL HEART OF MINE CLOSED, I CAN SOMEHOW BE INVOLVED WITH OTHERS. YOU PUT A LID OVER SMELLY STUFF TO NOT CAUSE TROUBLE. IT'S JUST GOOD MANNERS TO GET ALONG WITH YOUR NEIGHBORS.

THOUGH PEOPLE TELL ME, "I DON'T UNDERSTAND YOUR TRUE FEELINGS," IN TRUTH, EVEN I DON'T KNOW MY TRUE FEELINGS. WHAT DO I REALLY WANT TO DO? WHAT AM I? WHO ARE YOU TO ME? SO, I'M NOTHING, YOU SAY? WELL, I'M SORRY.

MY HEART HAS TWO DOORS. EVEN I CAN'T OPEN THE ONE IN THE BACK.



NON-REPORTING

GOD ISN'T HAPPY, BECAUSE HE KNOWS EVERYTHING...

GOD IS OMNISCIENT, BUT I'M SURE THAT THERE ARE ALL KINDS OF THINGS THAT HE'S BETTER OFF NOT KNOWING.

AS FOR MYSELF, I DON'T WANT TO KNOW, SO I'M NOT GOING TO KNOW. BUT THAT MIGHT MAKE LIFE A LITTLE DIFFICULT, SO I PRETEND THAT I KNOW. I OPEN MY MOUTH, LOOKING LIKE I KNOW. SO, ASK AWAY, KIDS.

Q: HOW MUCH DOES IT COST TO ERASE A NEIGHBOR'S WRINKLES?
A: ABOUT TEN MILLION YEN PER WRINKLE.

Q: WHY ARE THE MAIDS AT THE MAID TEA SHOP ETERNALLY SAID TO BE SEVENTEEN YEARS OLD?
A: EVEN IF SHE KILLS SOMEONE, MAID A WON'T HAVE HER REAL NAME MADE PUBLIC.

Q: WHY DOES PRIME MINISTER KOIZUMI LOOK LIKE DR. MASHIRITO?
A: BECAUSE THEY EVOLVED FROM THE SAME AMOEBA.

...EVEN IF WE DO KNOW, IT'S PRETTY BAD. I JUST REMEMBERED—ONLY THOSE OF YOU WHO READ THIS VOLUME HAVE LEARNED THE REAL TRUTH OF THE UNIVERSE.

I'M SURE YOU DIDN'T WANT TO KNOW. SORRY FOR THAT.

* PAGES 44-45 AS THEY APPEARED IN THE MAGAZINE VERSION

SHADOWY OUTCAST

I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU GOT ANGRY. CALLING YOU THE EMPEROR THAT'S PLACED AT THE SUNSET... IT'S ABOUT THE SHADOW EMPEROR.

I LIKE THE SHADE. EVERY TIME I MOVE, I CHOOSE A PLACE FACING NORTH. EVEN IN THE SHADE, I WEAR SUNBLOCK. OF COURSE, I HANG MY PANTS IN THE SHADE TO DRY.

I'M ATTRACTED TO SHADY WOMEN. I SUPPORT THE SHADOW LEADER YOSHIKO SAKURAI. IF THERE ARE RIGHTS TO SUNLIGHT, I THINK THERE OUGHT TO BE RIGHTS TO SHADE. TO THINK THAT SHADOW ART'S POPULAR NOW, WITH THE SPOTLIGHT BEING CAST ON SHADOWS—WE'RE IN STRANGE TIMES. THEY SAY THAT THE SHADOWS ARE GETTING MORE POPULAR, BUT PLEASE DON'T PUT THE SPOTLIGHT ON THEM. WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO DO BY SHINING AN INQUISITIVE LIGHT?

I'M AN ADVOCATE FOR SHADE. I DON'T LIKE SUNLIGHT. I LOVE THE TOSHOGU SHRINE IN NIKKO, BECAUSE THERE ARE MONKEYS.

SEE NO EVIL, SPEAK NO EVIL, HEAR NO EVIL. SEE NO DREAMS. HEAR NO SURVEYS. AND SAY NOTHING WHEN PEOPLE ASK, "SO, WHAT TYPE OF WORK DO YOU DO?"

MANGA KOSHIEN

"OWW!" THERE WAS A STABBING PAIN IN MY RIGHT INSTEP. A CART RAN OVER MY FOOT, MAKING ME THINK THAT IT WAS ANOTHER FLARE-UP WITH MY CHRONIC GOUT. IT WAS A CART FULL OF DREAMS THAT WAS BEING PUSHED BY A YOUNG GIRL ON OTOME ROAD.

"I'M FINE. GO ON. DON'T WORRY 'BOUT ME."

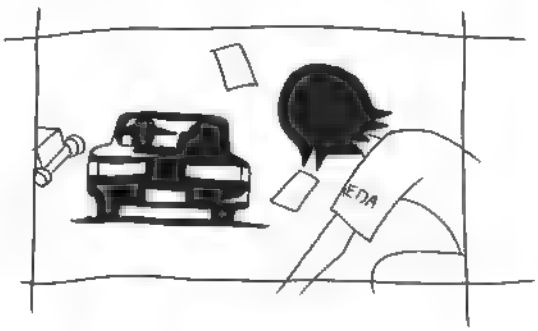
"MAY ALL YOUR DREAMS TAKE TOP PRIORITY."

WITHOUT ASKING ABOUT ME, THE METALLIC-HAIRED MAIDEN KEPT GOING. THIS ROAD IS DANGEROUS. POLICEMEN, PLEASE CONTROL THIS AREA. THE MAIDENS' CARTS ARE OVERLOADED AND THEY'RE ALWAYS SPEEDING; IT'S A LAWLESS AREA.

THE NEXT THING YOU KNOW, WHILE DESPERATELY AVOIDING CARTS, I WAS NEARLY RUN OVER BY A REAL CAR. I SAW A BLACK CENTURY WITH A NOBLE EMBLEM AND THE SILHOUETTE OF THE BACK OF AN ELEGANT HAT. AS I EXPECTED, THEY WEREN'T STOPPED BY THE POLICE. I'M SURE THERE MUST HAVE BEEN SOME MISUNDERSTANDING.

♪ *lu lu lu* ♪ *lu lu lulu lu* ♪

OTOME ROAD, CHAPTER 13 BY TORA BURYU



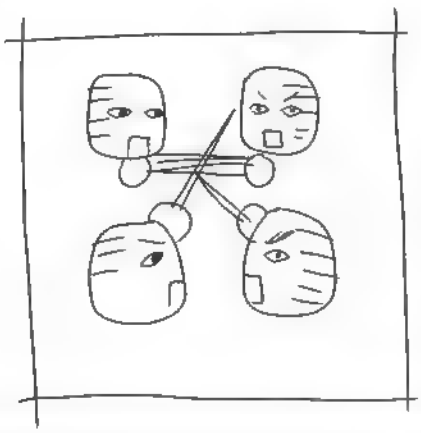
EXTREME LIMITS

FOR EIGHT HOURS, I COULDN'T REMEMBER NAMES FROM VARIOUS PLACES, WHICH MADE ME IRRITATED. THE WORD "TAKUMACHINE" KEPT GETTING IN THE WAY, SO I COULDN'T REMEMBER A THING. I'M WORTH THREE GAVAS POINTS AND HAVE LESS THAN 1MB OF MEMORY. IT GETS MAXED OUT VERY QUICKLY.

MY HUMAN CAPACITY IS THE SAME WAY. I'M PETTY, SO I LOSE MY TEMPER WHEN THE SMALLEST THING HAPPENS. I'VE NEVER HELD ANYTHING HEAVIER THAN A PEN. I DON'T KNOW A WORLD BIGGER THAN MY MANUSCRIPT. I FRET OVER INSIGNIFICANT THINGS.

BUT YOU KNOW, BECAUSE MY CAPACITY'S SMALL, I CAN BE FULFILLED WITH LITTLE THINGS. EVEN GETTING A COURTEOUS SMILE THAT MIGHT MEAN NOTHING TO YOU MAKES ME SPEND THE ENTIRE DAY IN HAPPINESS.

THE CHARACTER FOR CAPACITY — — LOOKS LIKE FOUR PEOPLE READY TO KILL EACH OTHER. IF THAT'S THE CASE, IT'S BETTER TO BE ARGUING OVER SOMETHING TRIVIAL.



GOING HOME

I CAN'T FIND THE RIGHT TIME TO VISIT MY PARENTS' HOUSE. I'M BUSY DURING MANGA SERIALIZATION TIME, SO IT'S HARD TO FIND TIME TO GO HOME. AFTER A MANGA SERIES IS FINISHED, I CAN'T GO BACK HOME, BECAUSE MY PARENTS WILL WORRY THAT I'M UNEMPLOYED. DURING OBON AND THE NEW YEAR, THERE'S THE PROBABILITY OF LOTS OF DIFFERENT PEOPLE VISITING MY PARENTS' HOME, SO I CAN'T GO THEN. I DON'T HAVE ENOUGH "FACE" TO FACE ANYONE, SO TO SPEAK.

THERE WAS A TIME WHEN I MADE UP MY MIND TO GO, BUT WHEN I GOT THERE, NOBODY WAS HOME. I FELT RATHER RELIEVED. I HADN'T BEEN THERE IN QUITE A WHILE. I THOROUGHLY ENJOYED MYSELF, AND LEFT BEFORE ANYONE RETURNED.

IT SURE IS NICE TO VISIT MY PARENTS' HOME FROM TIME TO TIME.

MIAI

I LIKE THE BACK OF PEOPLE'S HEADS. NO MATTER HOW INTENTLY I STARE AT THEM, THERE'S NO WAY THAT OUR EYES WILL MEET.

I REALLY CAN'T LOOK SOMEONE IN THE EYE WHEN I TALK. I ALWAYS WALK BY WITH MY EYES CAST DOWNWARD, SO I NEVER HAVE TO LOOK ANYONE IN THE EYE. BUT ON RAINY DAYS, IF I'M NOT CAREFUL, I'LL LOOK IN MY OWN EYES BY ACCIDENT. I FEEL LIKE DYING WHEN I SEE MY REPULSIVE FACE REFLECTED IN A PUDDLE.

WHEN I WAS IN JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL, I WAS SCOLDED BY MY HOMEROOM TEACHER, WHO TOLD ME TO LOOK INTO PEOPLE'S EYES WHEN I TALKED. BUT WHEN I DID LOOK INTO HIS EYES, HE TOLD ME, "WHAT DO YOU MEAN, LOOKING AT ME LIKE THAT?!" AND BEAT ME.

I DON'T LOOK INTO PEOPLE'S EYES WHEN SPEAKING ANYMORE. BUT IF SOMEONE TELLS ME TO LOOK INTO THEIR EYES, AND I HAVE NO OTHER CHOICE, I'LL LOOK INTO THE WHITES OF THEIR EYES. PEOPLE WITH LARGER PUPILS ARE A PROBLEM. PEOPLE WITH ALL-WHITE EYES ARE ALSO A PROBLEM.

CRITICISM TRAINING

I'M A GUY WHO'S USED TO CRITICISM, BUT SOMETIMES I FEEL AS IF I'M WORTH SOMETHING. LIKE THE TIME WHEN I HAPPENED TO SEE SOMEONE BUYING ONE OF MY MANGA, RIGHT IN FRONT OF MY EYES. TO HAVE SOMEONE READ MY WORK IS SO EMBARRASSING THAT IT MAKES ME WANT TO DIE, BUT AS AN ADULT, THE TRUTH IS THAT I'D BE IN TROUBLE IF THEY DIDN'T SELL.

ON A CERTAIN MONTH, ON A CERTAIN DAY, IN A CERTAIN BOOK STORE IN SHINJUKU, I OVERHEARD THIS CONVERSATION BETWEEN TWO ANGELS, WHO HAD TAKEN THE FIRST COLLECTIVE VOLUME OF *SAYONARA, ZETSUBOU-SENSEI* IN THEIR HANDS, AND WERE GETTING READY TO BUY...

"YOU KNOW, THIS THING HERE...YOU THINK I CAN USE IT AS A REFERENCE FOR DRAWING KIMONOS FOR *GINTAMA*?"

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PURCHASE. WE, THE STAFF, WILL CONTINUE TO WORK OUR HARDEST FOR YOU, OUR CUSTOMER, SO YOU CAN FIND REFERENCE MATERIAL FOR *GINTAMA DOUJINSHI*.

INSTABILITY

WHEN I THOUGHT, "EARTHQUAKE?!" IT WAS ACTUALLY I WHO WAS SHAKING. EARTHQUAKES ARE SCARY, BUT WHEN I'M DOING THE SHAKING, IT'S EVEN SCARIER.

EVERY NOW AND THEN, THE WORLD LOOKS SHAPELESS AND DISTORTED TO ME. PEOPLE WALKING AROUND LOOK LIKE THE I-MODE LOGO.

I'M UNSTABLE. I CAN'T DRAW A STRAIGHT LINE. I ALWAYS HAVE ASHI-SAN CORRECT THEM FOR ME. WHEN I THINK I'M WALKING ON THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE ROAD, BEFORE I REALIZE IT, I'M ON THE LEFT. WHEN I USED TO DRAW A SPORTS MANGA, I ENDED UP WITH A MANGA WITH LOTS OF VULGAR STUFF. *SUNDAY* WAS THE MAGAZINE.

MY WORK WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A DREAM, SO THERE ARE PLENTY OF TIMES WHEN I GET DESPONDENT. I'D GO OUT AND BUY NEW CLOTHES, AND WEAR MY OLD ONES. ONE OF MY SOCKS ALWAYS DISAPPEARS. WHEN I GO OUT, CROWS ALWAYS FOLLOW ME.

I HAD THIS DREAM WHERE I HAD TO CHOOSE BETWEEN A LIFE WITHOUT A ROOF, AND A LIFE WITHOUT A FLOOR. I CHOSE THE LIFE WITHOUT A FLOOR. MY BODY WENT SINKING INTO THE DIRT. EVENTUALLY, MY WHOLE BODY WAS COVERED IN DIRT, SO THERE WAS NO LONGER ANY POINT FOR A ROOF.

HEY, DON'T OPEN IT, OKAY?

LITTLE MISS PRECISION

BY: KAFUKA

HUFF HUFF
GUESS TODAY, WE'LL CALL IT A DRAW.
KICK
BAM
WHAK
SQUIRM
WE'LL BEAT YOU TILL YOU'RE HALF DEAD!
DON'T BUTT IN WITH YOUR BIG MOUTH! THIS IS A MAN'S FIGHT!
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE!
WHAT'S THIS? THE CHAIRMAN OF JUSTICE HAS ARRIVED!
HEY, DELINQUENTS! HOLD IT RIGHT THERE!
THAT GUY'S IN MUCH MORE PAIN THAN YOU.
MAKE IT A PRECISE, ACCURATE DRAW, AND EVEN UP THE PAIN.
NOW, KILL HIM RIGHT.
HALF DEAD'S NO GOOD.
WHAK
NOW THIS MAKES IT A PRECISE DRAW.
THANK YOU, CHAIR-MAN.
URK
LIFT
BUT THAT'S TOO MUCH...!

ZETSUBOU LITERARY COMPILATION

RUN, EROS!

MELOS WAS OUTRAGED.

"BUT THAT'S 70,000 YEN* FOR TWO BEERS! YOU SAID THERE'D BE NO CHARGE FOR ADDITIONAL BEERS!"

"NO, THIS IS OUR USUAL PRICE."

"I'LL GO AND GET THE MONEY, THEN."

"WE'LL KEEP YOUR FRIEND HERE AS COLLATERAL. IF YOU DON'T RETURN, WE'LL BURY HIM, SEE?"

MELOS RAN...

"SO SORRY...I MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO RETURN."

*70,000 YEN=ABOUT $650 U.S.

Translation Notes

Japanese is a tricky language for most Westerners, and translation is often more art than science. In the case of a text-dense manga like *Sayonara, Zetsubou-sensei*, it's a delicate art indeed. Although most of the jokes are universal, Koji Kumeta is famous for filling his manga with references to Japanese politics, entertainment, otaku culture, religion, and sports. Unless you're a true Japanophile, it's difficult to understand it all without some serious background knowledge of current events at the time the manga was running. Kumeta also uses references to foreign literature and politics, so even Japanese readers probably don't get all the humor. For your reading pleasure, here are notes on some of the more obscure references and difficult-to-translate jokes in *Sayonara, Zetsubou-sensei*.

General Notes

Sayonara, Zetsubou-sensei (title)

The title *Sayonara, Zetsubou-sensei* literally translates to "Good-bye, Mr. Despair." It's a possible reference to James Hilton's 1934 novel of a beloved teacher, *Good-bye, Mr. Chips* (known in Japan as *Chips-sensei, Sayonara*). The Del Rey edition preserves the original Japanese title, with *The Power of Negative Thinking* as a subtitle to express Itoshiki's philosophy. (The English subtitle is itself a reference to Norman Vincent Peale's 1952 self-help book *The Power of Positive Thinking*.)

Signs

Koji Kumeta's highly detailed and realistic renderings of modern Japanese life present one special challenge to the letterer. Kumeta fills his panels with all the ephemera of everyday life—street signs, product labels, magazine covers, newspaper pages, and so on. It's difficult to replace this text with English lettering without interfering with the integrity of the original illustrations. Out of respect for Kumeta's unique artwork, many signs have retained their original Japanese lettering.

Page Notes

Takeshi Kaga, page iv

Takeshi Kaga (1950–) is a Japanese actor best known as "Chairman Kaga" on the original Japanese *Iron Chef* TV series.

Hikikomori, page 3

Hikikomori is a Japanese term for individuals who have chosen to withdraw from society and not leave their homes. The word comes from the verb *hikikomoru*, which means "stay indoors" or "be confined indoors." It is considered a serious social problem in Japan. Komori's name comes from the *hikikomori* phenomenon.

May the Moon of This Month's Evening Cloud Over with My Tears, page 4

Sayonara, Zetsubou-sensei's chapter titles are usually references to classic Japanese fiction. This title is a reference to Koyo Ozaki's 1897–1902 novel *Konjiki Yasha* ("The Golden Demon," also known as "The Usurer"), in which a wealthy suitor comes between a poor young couple.

Hanging wishes, page 4

This chapter takes place during the beautifully lit-up, night-time festivities of the Tanabata Festival (or Star Festival), held annually in summer. During Tanabata, people write their wishes on strips of paper, known as *tanzaku*, and hang them on special bamboo branches in hopes that their wishes come true. The festival celebrates the meeting of the stars Orihime (Vega) and Hikoboshi (Altair) who, at other times of the year, are

separated by the Milky Way. According to mythology, these two lovers are allowed to meet only once a year, on the seventh day of the seventh lunar month.

Assorted references, page 5

The Great King of Terror is a character from the prophecies of Nostradamus, who was supposed to begin his reign of terror in July 1999. "JR" stands for the Japan Railways Group, which operates most of Japan's railway network. The "Cool Biz" campaign was a 2005 Japanese environmental campaign to save electricity by dressing casually at work and using less air-conditioning. ("Warm Biz" was an unofficial counter-proposal to save electricity during winter by wearing heavy turtleneck shirts.) "May He Walk" refers to Futa-kun, a red panda at the Chiba Zoo who became a big attraction due to his ability to stand on his hind legs. Tamao Nishi is the name of a bearded seal who took up residence in a river in Yokohama's Nishi Ward, and was so beloved by the locals that he was registered as a citizen under the name Tamao Nishi. Dr. Nakamatsu (or as he calls himself, Dr. Nakamats) is a colorful inventor of strange devices who has repeatedly run for governor of Tokyo.

President Kosaku Shima, page 9

This is a reference to *Shachô Shima Kosaku* ("President Kosaku Shima"), the manga by Kenshi Hirokane. Hirokane's businessman hero, Kosaku Shima, first appeared in 1983, and gradually rose through the corporate ranks, becoming company president in 2008 (a few years after this manga chapter first appeared, suggesting that Shima's wish came true).

Assorted references, page 12

Ichiro Tanaka and Suzuki are characters who appeared in *Zetsubou-sensei,* volume 1, page 26, in which they previously expressed their dreams to join Japan's J. League soccer league, aka J2 (Tanaka) and study at Momogi Animation School, aka Mo-Ani (Suzuki). Evidently they're serious about their wishes. "The former Mr. Sekiutsu" is a character who appears in volume 1, page 121, having sold all that he possessed, including his internal organs. He sold his name to Maria Taro Sekiutsu.

Assorted references, page 13

Ichiro Suzuki is a Japanese-born outfielder for the Seattle Mariners. Prince Peter Kropotkin (1842–1921) was a famous Russian anarchist, scientist, and author. "Horiemon" is short for Horie Takafumi, founder of the Japanese Internet portal livedoor. (He was known as an "alchemist" in the IT industry, hence the wish for "gold.") "Ayu" is short for Ayumi Hamasaki, the Empress of J-Pop, who easily sells a million CDs. The so-called Kano sisters are a pair of Japanese TV celebrities who are chiefly known for their flashy fashion sense and appearing nude together in photo books.

"You, who sleeps, have you forgotten?" page 13

"You, who sleeps" (*Utatane no kimi*) is a verse from the poem *Hasu no Hanabune* ("Lotus Flower Boat"), from the book *Midaregami* ("Tangled Hair") by Akiko Yosano (1878–1942). The poems deal with love's awakening and carnal desire.

Assorted references, page 15

Morning Musume is a famous all-girl J-Pop group, founded in 1997. They have a revolving lineup with new girls auditioning for spots as others "retire." Haru Urara is a Japanese racehorse, born in 1996, who became a sort of celebrity due to her unbroken string of 113 losses. Akira Kaji is a Japanese soccer player who lost a goal due to a controversial offside decision in a 2005 FIFA Confederations Cup against Brazil. "May I get together with Komuro" refers to the failed love affair between idol singer Tomomi Kahara and music producer/DJ Tetsuya Komuro. "May I be the chief mourner" refers to the public dispute between two popular sumo wrestlers, brothers Takanohana and Wakanohana, as to who was going to take over the honorable role of "chief mourner" at the funeral of their sumo wrestler father in 2005. (This incident is also referred to on page 35, and again on page 53.) Amuro and Lalah are characters from the 1979 anime series *Mobile Suit Gundam*. *Touch* is a famous 1981 baseball manga by Mitsuru Adachi, an artist Koji Kumeta admires.

Assorted references, page 16

"May I practice birth control." refers to Shido Nakamura and Yoko Takeuchi, actors who met on the set of the movie *Be With You* in 2004. They had an affair, Yoko became pregnant, and they were briefly married and then divorced. Kazuyoshi Miura is a Japanese soccer player who was not selected as a main registered member in the '98 game and ended up unable to participate in the World Cup. Yama Hiraku is short for Taku Yamasaki, a Japanese Diet Member who was frequently embroiled in sex scandals and became famous for saying, "If I hadn't been a Diet Member, I definitely would have been an adult video actor." ("AV" is a Japanese abbreviation for "adult videos.") Goku and Vegeta are characters in Akira Toriyama's manga *Dragon Ball*, aka *Dragon Ball Z* "Nacchi" is short for Natsumi Abe, a former member of Morning Musume, whose image was tarnished in 2004 by a plagiarism scandal. Kazuhide Uekusa was a former professor at Waseda University who was arrested in 2004 for peeping under girls' skirts at a train station using a mirror.

I want to be a shellfish in my next life, page 17

This is a reference to the 1958 Japanese TV drama *Watashi wa Kai ni Naritai* ("I Want to Be a Shellfish"), which has been repeatedly remade, the most recent remake being in 2008.

Your Front Hair Swept Back for the First Time..., page 18

This title is taken from the opening line to the poem *Hatsukoi* ("First Love"), part of the poetry collection *Wakanashu* ("A Collection of Young Herbs"), by Toson Shimazaki (1872–1943).

"Opened Japan" vs. "Opened" the school, page 20

"Opened Japan" and "opened the school" are both pronounced *kaiko* (though the written characters are not the same) so, in the Japanese version, this is a pun. Commodore Perry (1794–1858) was the Commodore of the U.S. Navy who, in 1854, sailed a fleet of "black ships" to Japan and famously pressured Japan to open diplomatic relations to the United States, ending three hundred years of Japanese isolationism.

Shini Rurubu, page 23

Shini Rurubu, "Rurubu for Dying," is a parody of the actual *Rurubu* series of Japanese travel guidebooks. Zetsubou-sensei uses it to find potential suicide spots.

Ueno Clinic, page 28

The Ueno Clinic is a clinic that performs circumcisions, a fairly common form of cosmetic surgery among Japanese adult men. They frequently advertise in men's magazines.

Surströmming, page 29

Baltic herring which has been soaked in brine and left to ferment for months, surstromming is considered a delicacy in Sweden. The cans' contents usually splatter when opened due to pressure from the fermentation inside.

Signs on Perry Shop, page 31

Perrycan Courier Service is a takeoff on Japan's well-known Pelican Courier Service. *Kanten* is a Japanese dessert made with agar agar. Perrysienne is a takeoff of Parisienne, which is a type of gnocchi, among other things.

Thou Shalt Not Know, page 32

This title is a reference to the poem *Kimi Shinitamo koto Nakare* ("Thou Shalt Not Die"), by Akiko Yosano (1878–1942). In Japanese, "Thou Shalt Not Know" is *Kimi Shiritamo koto Nakare*, just one letter's difference.

One missed call, page 32

In addition to a common cellphone message, *Chakushin Ari* ("One Missed Call") is the name of a 2004 Japanese horror movie. An American remake was released in 2008.

Dangerous Regions of Tokyo Death Map, page 36

The *Tokyo Kiken Chitai Shi no Map* ("Tokyo Dangerous Regions Map of Death") originated on a program broadcast on July 2, 2005, on Asahi TV, which claimed to show what buildings and parts of Tokyo would be most dangerous in case of a major earthquake. The program also warned viewers of the high probability of an earthquake.

Takeo Omori, page 36

Takeo Omori is a character in Masashi Ueda's long-running family four-panel manga *Yorinuki Kobo-chan*, aka *Kobo the Li'l Rascal*. His marriage in the strip was a minor media event.

Assorted references, page 37

"Train man" refers to the megahit 2004 love story *Train Man*, aka *Densha Otoko*, which was supposedly based on a real incident. *Ippai no Kakesoba* ("One Serving of Kakesoba Noodles") was a popular human-interest story written by Ryohei Kuri in 1989, and later adapted into a movie; however, its popularity was marred when the author was later convicted of crimes. "I thought I'd bought an 86 but I got an 85" refers to the AE85 and AE86 Toyota Corolla GTS. (The AE8S has a similar exterior but a less-powerful engine.) "That manga" may refer to *Hayate the Combat Butler*, the manga by Kumeta's former assistant Kenjiro Hata, currently running in *Weekly Shonen Sunday* (a rival of *Weekly Shonen Magazine*, where *Sayonara Zetsubou-sensei* appears).

The Truth of the Universe Map, pages 44–45

Unfortunately, analyzing this map in detail would take as much space as the entire volume. However, readers will recognize references to many recurring jokes, such as the Ueno Clinic, Yoshiko Sakurai, etc.

Murindô Bookstore, page 47

Murindô literally means "friendless."

I'm Predestined to Be in the Shadows, page 48

This title is a reference to *Horoki* ("Vagabond's Song") by Fumiko Hayashi (1903–1951). The novel includes a famous line, *Watashi wa shukumeiteki na horosha de aru* ("I'm predestined to be a vagabond").

Shinsengumi, page 52

The *Shinsengumi* ("New Select Squad") was a special police force of about three hundred ronin created at the end of Japan's Tokugawa era (about 1863–1869). Their mission was to keep the peace in Kyoto and defend the Tokugawa shogunate against the revolutionary elements, which would eventually lead to the Meiji Restoration. The members of the *Shinsengumi* have a special place in Japanese folklore and pop culture as some of the last samurai and loyal defenders of a doomed regime. Soji Okita, Toshizo Hijikata, and Isami Kondo were high-ranking members of the group, while Yoshimura is more obscure, as Kumeta points out.

Assorted references, page 53

Sadaharu Oh and Katsuya Nomura are Japan's #1 and #2 ranked professional baseball players. The Saiyans are an alien race and Kuririn is a human character in Akira Toriyama's manga *Dragon Ball*, aka *Dragon Ball Z*. *Wuthering Heights* was produced as a play in Suzue Miuchi's classic manga about a young actress, *Glass no Kamen* ("Mask of Glass").The manga's heroine, Maya Kitajima, played the young Cathy and outshined her counterpart who was playing Cathy as an adult. Yujiro Ishihara (1934–1987) was an actor and singer, while Tony Tani (1917–1987) was a vaudevillian, comedian, and singer who was most popular in the 1950s and 1960s. Takuya Kimura (aka Kimutaku) is the name of an actor and member of the Japanese idol group SMAP, while the other Takuya Kimura (pronounced the same but written using different Chinese characters) is a professional baseball player. "Sibling rivalry" and "father's death" refers to the feud between the sumo wrestlers Takanohana and Wakanohana (see notes for page 15). Hidetoshi Nakata is a famous soccer player, while a different Hide was a popular participant on the Japanese reality TV program *Ainori* ("Car Pool" or "Love Ride"), in which seven young single men and women ride around the world in a pink bus. "Madame Dewi" refers to Dewi Sukarno (1940–), formerly Naoko Nemoto, a Japanese woman who married Sukarno (1901–1970), the first president of Indonesia. After Sukarno was overthrown in a 1967 coup and died three years later, Dewi became a wealthy international socialite.

Hercules Beetle and Acteon Beetle, page 57

Hercules Beetle and Acteon Beetle are cards in *Mushiking: The King of Beetles*, an arcade collectible card game released by Sega in 2003. Each time a player deposits money to play, the machine dispenses a random card with a barcode, which can then be scanned into the machine and used to play.

Assorted references, page 57

The *donjarahoi* is the name of the dance in the children's song *Mori no Kobito* ("Little People of the Forest"). It's a word which, to Japanese audiences, conjures up cute images of little elves dancing cheerfully. *Meitantei Kageman* ("Famous Detective Shadowman") is a classic children's manga and anime created by Aooni Yamane. Lum-chan is the romantic interest in Rumiko Takahashi's 1978–1987 manga *Urusei Yatsura*.

Sunlight Monkey Troupe, page 59

The *Nikko Saru Gundan* ("Nikko Monkey Troupe") is a real tourist attraction in Nikko, Japan, in which costumed monkeys perform tricks. *Nikko* also means "sunlight," so Kumeta is making a pun.

Assorted references, page 60

This page has some of the trickiest references in this volume. "Kage Utada" is a reference to the real-life singer Hikaru Utada (*kage* means "shadow" and *hikaru* means "light"). Keiko Fuji is Hikaru Utada's mother. "The night unfolds" is a reference to Keiko Fuji's hit song *Yume wa Yoru Hiraku* ("Dreams unfold at night"). "Stomp the shadow," aka *kagefumi*, is a Japanese game similar to tag, in which the person who is "it" stomps on the other players' shadows to tag them.

Confessions of a Pen Name, page 65

This title is a reference to the novel *Kamen no Kokuhaku* ("Confessions of a Mask") by the famous author Yukio Mishima (1925–1970). It's a semi-autobiographical story of a young man coming to terms with his homosexuality.

Dôjinshi, page 62

This entire chapter deals with *dôjinshi* (literally "same-person publications"), the Japanese term for small-press and self-published works. Although *dôjinshi* can be anything from literary journals to self-published computer software, the majority is manga fan-fiction, including a great deal of *yaoi*, a genre depicting imaginary romantic (and sexual) liasons between male characters from various manga, anime, and live-action shows. Female *yaoi* fans are known as *fujoshi*, an alternate reading for the name of the character introduced in this chapter, Harumi Fujiyoshi.

Stuff in Fujiyoshi's room, page 63

Fujiyoshi's room is littered with evidence of her *dôjinshi* hobby, specifically *yaoi dôjinshi*. There's a poster for "Anaruto," which may be a reference to the manga *Naruto*, although it's also worth mentioning that "l" and "r" are the same letter in Japanese. There's also several mentions of "Dea x Yza," a reference to Yzak Joule and Dearka Elsman, characters from the 2002 anime series *Mobile Suit Gundam SEED*. The "x" refers to a *yaoi* couple, similar to the "slash" in American fan-fiction (e.g., "Kirk/Spock"). Other signs include references to the anime series *Fafner of the Azure* and various printing companies that do dôjinshi work. Judging from her calendar, Fujiyoshi is trying to prepare a *dôjinshi* for a summer convention, and the note taped to her mug reads "Taiyo Printing—noon—meet up with Kami Nasakino-san—Ikebukuro, 7:30—return the 'Dea x Yza' book."

"Is it the Araragi School? Or is it the Shirakaba Movement?" page 65

Araragi was a Japanese literary/poetry magazine that ran from 1908 to 1997, and whose famous contributors were known as the "Araragi School." The *Shirakaba* ("White Birches") movement is a group of Japanese writers who were active in the second half of the twentith century. With Zetsubou-sensei's old-fashioned sensibilities, this is the type of *dôjinshi* he immediately thinks of.

Athr x Caga, page 66

This is a reference to Athrun Zala and Cagalli Yula Athha from *Mobile Suit Gundam SEED*. It's a straight male-female pairing.

Dôjinshi convention signs, page 67

This convention is a thinly fictionalized version of Comiket ("Comic Market"), the hugely popular *dôjinshi* convention held twice a year (summer and winter) in Japan. Most of the signs on pages 67–70 are normal signs that one might find at a *dôjinshi* convention: prices, catalogs, advertisements for printing companies, etc. One of the book covers reads *Okusama wa Maho Jukujo* ("My Wife Is a Magical Mature Woman"), a parody of the anime *Okusama wa Maho Shojo* ("My Wife Is a Magical Girl.")

Cosplaying *Rurouni Kenshin*, page 67

Cosplay is short for "costume play": dressing up in costumes of manga, anime, or videogame characters. Cosplayers in Japan pay great attention to detail, and often go to events such as Comiket to show off their perfectly crafted alter egos. Nobuhiro Watsuki's *Rurouni Kenshin* (*Ruroken* for short) is a manga set in the Meiji Era (1868–1912). The convention attendees have mistaken Zetsubou-sensei's naturally retro clothing style for the elaborate kimonos of *Rurouni Kenshin*. (Actually, in the original Japanese, Koji Kumeta calls it *Uroken*, but Japanese readers would get the reference.)

Zakuro Taisen, page 68

This is a reference to the video game, anime, and manga franchise *Sakura Taisen* ("Sakura Wars"), set in an alternate 1920s Japan. Due to Matoi Tsunetsuki's old-fashioned kimono, the convention attendees have mistaken her for a *Sakura Taisen* cosplayer, when actually she's just trying to dress like her beloved Zetsubou-sensei.

Ki sho ten ketsu, page 70

Ki sho ten ketsu refers to the four-part structure of certain Chinese poetry. The four parts are *ki* (introduction), *sho* (development), *ten* (twist), and *ketsu* (conclusion).

"No climax, no conclusion, no meaning," page 70

In the original Japanese, Chiri says, "*Yama nashi, ochi nashi, imi nashi*" ("No climax, no conclusion, no meaning"). She means it as an insult, but it's actually the famous phrase that was abbreviated in fandom to form the self-deprecating word *yaoi* (yama...ochi...imi). *Yaoi* manga, indeed, are not known for their deep meaning or intricate plot structure.

Manga Koshien, page 72

This is a big annual manga competition, patterned after the popular Koshien baseball tournament, which has high schools across Japan battling it out for the top award.

"Are you going to see the fireworks, too?" page 72

The summer Comiket ("Comic Market") often coincides with the Tokyo Bay Fireworks Festival, making the area around the Tokyo Big Sight convention center incredibly congested.

Ki sho ten ketsu, page 73

Ki sho ten ketsu in Maria's mind is entirely different. Due to her poor grasp of Japanese, she uses kanji which have the same sounds but different meanings. *ki* (devil), *sho* (injury), *ten* (heaven), and *ketsu* (blood).

Assorted references, page 74

An, also written as *yami*, is Japanese for "darkness." The fireworks strip is a reference to the 1993 Japanese movie *Uchiage hanabi, shita kara Miruka? Yoko kara Miruka?* ("Fireworks, Should We See Them from the Side or from Below?"). The "protective custody" strip refers to an incident after a Japanese volleyball match, which ended with one of the players being taken into police custody for questioning. Pinko Izumi is a Japanese entertainer who went on a diet to lose weight, but gained some of it back. The Association for Those Falsely Accused of Engaging in Lewd Acts was an actual organization founded by a person in Japan, who was arrested for taking surreptitious photos of women on the Oedo Railway Line. "In reality, she's pregnant" is a reference to the lead actors of the movie *Be with You* (see notes for page 16). "Ramen Wars" refers to a 2005 incident in Japan when a jealous ramen shop owner kidnapped and beat a former business partner. The two men had

been business partners many years before, and the less successful businessman blamed the other one for using his recipes without crediting him.

Coupling, page 75

"Coupling" is a Japanese term for coming up with imaginary pairings between fictional characters. The equivalent English slang term is "shipping."

The People Are at the Breaking Point, page 76

This title is a reference to Sachio Ito's 1906 story *Noginiku no Hata* ("The Grave of the Wild Chrysanthemum," also known as "The Wild Daisy"). The original line reads *Tamisan ha nogiku no yo na hito da* ("The people are like a wild chrysanthemum"), and the *Zetsubou-sensei* chapter title reads *Tamisan ha ippai-ippai no hito da* ("The people are at the breaking point"). It could also be translated as "The people are at the extreme edge," hence the image of Zetsubou-sensei on the cliff.

"On Edge" School, page 80

This chapter features the Ocean's Edge School and Ocean's Edge Boarding House. In Japanese, *rinkai* means "beachside" or "ocean's edge." However, using different kanji character with the same pronunciation can mean "in a critical state." The English adaptation uses "on edge" as an equivalent pun.

Morihige's Narrow Escape, page 82

Sold in America under the name Pop-Up Pirate, these toys are known in Japan as Kurohige Kiki Ippatsu ("Blackbeard In the Nick of Time"). The game is played by inserting plastic swords into the barrel until a random slot ejects the pirate (Blackbeard) and ends the game. Kumeta replaces the pirate with "Morihige," a pun on the famous actor Hisaya Morishige (1913–). Like Blackbeard, Morishige has a beard (*hige*, in Japanese).

"To The Max," page 82

The original Japanese adaptation uses another obsolete slang term, "MK5," meaning "five seconds before seriously losing it." (The M is short for *maji*, meaning "seriously.") It was a popular phrase in Japan in the 1990s. See also the guy's shirt on page 141.

Passnet, page 85

Magnetic prepaid train fare cards. They're currently being phased out.

Ippai Pub, page 86

The "ippai" in Ippai Pub has a double meaning. It can mean "one drink" or it can mean, "the very extreme edge," as in the Japanese title of this chapter (see the notes for page 76). Lastly, since the "b" and "v" sounds are the same in Japanese, it could also be a pun meaning "Extreme Perv." This would explain why Zetsubou-sensei thinks it's sleazy.

Assorted references, page 87

Tsuneo Horiuchi (1948–) is a former Japanese baseball pitcher who was resigned as the manager of the Yomiuri Giants following a dispute. Ippei Hayashiya is a *rakugoka*, a practitioner of the traditional Japanese form of *rakugo* solo comedy performance. In Ippei's case, his entire family (sister, brother, mother, etc.) are *rakugo* performers dating back three generations, but Ippei is considered the least successful of the bunch. Cocco is a Japanese singer/songwriter who, in artist Kumeta's opinion, has already gone past "the breaking point" (evidently he liked her the way she used to be). The Platon Hotel is the setting of the occupational/business manga *Hotel* by famous manga artist Shotaro Ishinomori (1938–1998). The manager of the Platon often had to apologize to customers for story-related problems and goings-on.

Butsumetsu, page 88

Butsumetsu is the day that Buddha died. (Due to Japan's old lunisolar calendar, it's not always on the same day every year.) It's considered a most unlucky day, and weddings are avoided on this day. The phrase "On the third offense, even the Buddha will get angry" is translated from a Japanese saying, *Hotoke no Kao mo Sandomade* ("Even the Buddha's face, on the third time...")

Sister-in-law, I'm an Aristocrat, page 90

This is a reference to a line in *Shayo* ("The Setting Sun"), a famous novel by the pessimistic author Osamu Dazai (1909–1948).

Zetsumei, page 93

The verb *zetsumei suru* means "to die." *Mikoto*, sometimes read as *inochi*, means "life."

Satogaeri, page 95

Satogaeri literally means "paying the first visit to one's parents' home after getting married." But it can be used more loosely as a visit to one's parents' home for certain holidays, etc.

Miai, page 95

Miai, or more formally, *omiai*, is a formal meeting with a view for marriage. It's the first step for an arranged marriage. The verb *miau* ("to look at each other," or "to exchange glances") is made of the same two kanji characters, but with a different inflection. In short, it's a pun.

Sebastian, page 99

In Japanese pop culture, Sebastian is a stereotypical name for a Western-style butler.

Genroku Era, page 99

Considered to be the Golden Age of the Edo Period, the Genroku Era (1688–1704) was a period of economic stability when the arts flourished. Evidently the noble Itoshiki family line dates back to these illustrious times.

Zetsurin, page 102

Zetsurin means "matchless, unequalled, unsurpassed." It also has a meaning of sexual prowess, hence the pun, and Rin's irritation.

Ordinary Train, page 102

In Japan, the *futsu* train, or "ordinary" train, is a slower, cheaper form of train service. Since Nami is so ordinary, obviously it's her means of transportation. (See *Zetsubou-sensei* volume 1, page 139.)

Leap Before You Lock Eyes, page 104

This title is a reference to *Miru mae ni tobe* ("Leap Before You Look"), an anthology of stories by the famous author Kenzaburo Oe (born in 1935). The *Zetsubou-sensei* chapter title is *Miau mae ni tobe* (literally, "Leap Before You Exchange Glances," or "Leap Before the Eyes Meet").

Assorted references, page 110

Ayako is the heroine of the 1972 mystery-drama manga *Ayako* by Osamu Tezuka. Sukekiyo is a character from Seishi Yokomizo's famous 1950 mystery novel *Inugamike no Ichizoku* ("The Inugami Clan"), who wore a white rubber mask to hide his war-scarred face. Sai is the Go-playing ghost from Yumi Hotta and Takeshi Obata's megahit manga *Hikaru no Go*. *Nostaljii* (a portmanteau of "nostalgia" and *jii*, Japanese for "old man") is a 1974 manga by Fujiko F. Fujio, about a soldier still hiding in the jungle thirty years after World War II, who tries to go back to his hometown.

"Looking pros," page 113

Sugi-sama is the *jidaigeki* (period drama) actor Ryutaro Sugi, known for his sidelong glances. "T-shi" is short for Masashi Tashiro, a former Japanese TV performer and musician whose career imploded following his 2000 arrest for filming up women's skirts with a camcorder. (In the original Japanese, he says he looks into the *wareme,* a play on words which uses the word "eye" but can mean "cleavage" or "buttcrack.") The "Nouveau" T-shirt refers to a product he did TV commercials for, before his disgrace. "U-shi" is short for another famous voyeur, Kazuhide Uekusa (see notes for page 16). Shusaku is the revolting title character of an X-rated Japanese computer game released by ELF Corporation in 1998; the first character of his name is *shu,* also pronounced *kusai,* which means "stinky."

All sorts of eyes, page 113

In Japanese, these are all words or phrases involving *me*, the kanji for "eye." *Majime* is Japanese for "serious" or " reliable" (actually, if you wanted to say "serious eyes," you'd have to say *majime na me*). *Honkime* means "earnest eyes" or "sober eyes." *Irome* literally means "colored eyes" but can also mean giving a person a seductive, come-hither look. *Hiikime* means "favoring, supporting eyes." (Aruru is a cute-girl character from the adult video game/fantasy anime *Utawarerumono*.) When you say you have an *oime,* it means you're in debt to someone. *Urame* literally means "backside eyes"; it's used in the same way as the English phrase "backfire," implying an action with undesired consequences. *In course takame* is Japanese for "high inside strike zone," a baseball term. "The eyes of the crowd" is *seken no me* ("the eyes of society"). All these work as "eye" gags in Japanese, but not necessarily in English.

Clairvoyance = Chiri's eyes, page 116

When Kafuka uses the word "clairvoyance" after Chiri starts magically seeing things beyond her realm, Usui snidely remarks, "I bet you set up this whole scary scene just so you could make that pun!" In Japanese, *senrigan* ("clairvoyance") is written with three characters that can also be read as *Chirigan* ("Chiri's eyes"). It's all because the kanji for "thousand" can be read as either *sen* or *chi*. A similar *sen/chi* pun appears in the name of the heroine of Hayao Miyazaki's anime *Spirited Away*.

Assorted references, page 117

"Sawa's swimsuit" refers to the Japanese idol Sawa Yamaguchi. "The back of the hair of a Hanshin Ace" refers to Kei Igawa, a starting pitcher for the New York Yankees, formerly an ace pitcher for the Hanshin Tigers. He declared that he wouldn't cut his hair while he was on a winning streak, and when his team had twelve successive wins over three months, his hair got really long. *Waratte Iitomo!* ("It's Okay to Laugh!") is a Japanese variety TV show.

Meanwhile, Fujiyoshi-san... page 119

Meanwhile, Fujiyoshi is at Comiket, a *dôjinshi* convention (see the notes for page 67).

That Is Why You Are to Flee, Follow Me! Philostratus, page 120

This is a reference to Osamu Dazai's 1940 short story *Hashire Melos* ("Run, Melos!"), based on the ancient Greek legend of Damon and Pythias. In the story, Melos is sentenced to death by the king, but asks for a reprieve to attend his sister's wedding. The king grants his wish, but takes Melos's friend Selinuntius hostage, promising to kill him in three days if Melos does not return. On the way back, Melos encounters many obstacles, but he valiantly struggles to return so that his friend may live.

Criticism training vs. escape training, page 123

Nozomu talks about initiating into "criticism training." Then Chiri sarcastically butts in with, "Don't you mean escape training?" since Nozomu's always figuring out ways to get out of teaching class. It's a pun since both of these words are pronounced the same (*Hitan Kunren*); they're just spelled using different kanji characters.

Derizon, page 128

In the original Japanese, "derision" is *barizogon* ("abusive language"). When Nozumu says, "The *barizogons* are flying about," Maria imagines it's a scary-looking monster, since her grasp of Japanese isn't all that great.

Pierced Jizo, page 128

Jizo is a bodhisattva worshiped in Japan as the guardian deity of children, particularly children who died before their parents. He's sometimes depicted with pierced ears.

Full -> Relative, page 130

This is a reference to phimosis, a medical condition in which the foreskin of the penis won't retract properly. Phimosis in older children and adults can vary in severity, with some men able to retract their foreskin partially (relative phimosis), and some completely unable to retract their foreskin even in the flaccid state (full phimosis). Cosmetic surgeons like the Ueno Clinic (see note for page 28) make a big deal about the dangers of phimosis.

Is every man in this class a masochist? page 132

In the original Japanese, the word "masochist" is written simply with the abbreviation M (as in S&M).

Manjin, page 133

The word *manjin* on the back of the man's shirt is written with the character for *man* (as in "manga") and *jin* (person). As the kanji *man* can be used to mean "morally corrupt," the word could mean either "manga man" or something like "degenerate man."

Because It Is So Unstable, I Went to Search the Skies, page 134

This title is a reference to *Saekosho*, a novel by Haruo Sato (1892–1964). The original line reads *Anmari otenki dakara, watashi sora wo sagashi ni ittekimashitanoyo* ("Because it was too beautiful a day, I went to search the skies").

Izumi Oogami, page 136

Izumi Oogami (1969–) is a Japanese announcer and voice actress.

Assorted references, page 137

Kamille is a reference to Kamille Bidan, the hero of the 1986 anime series *Mobile Suit Zeta Gundam*. The Spo-Park Matsumori sporting facility in Sendai, Japan, opened on July 1, 2005 but closed a mere forty-seven days later after an earthquake caused its roof to collapse. "Reversible Destiny-Yoro Park" is a theme park in Yoro, Japan, whose main feature is a building with a surreal, disorienting interior (furniture partially sticking out of the walls, etc.). Sakura Bank is one of the former names of the Mitsui-Sumitomo Bank, which has changed its name several times in recent years, as part of a series of mergers. Cuenca is a famous tourist spot in Spain, a medieval walled city where houses hang precariously on the edge of a river gorge.

Stable train schedule -> Unstable drivers, page 138

This is a reference to the 2005 Amagasaki rail crash in which the driver was speeding in order to make up lost time for a delay. One hundred and six people died, making it one of the most serious rail disasters in Japanese history.

Assorted References, page 140

"It's a love comedy!" "It's a battle manga!" refers to stereotypical *shônen* manga of the *Shônen Jump* variety, which sometimes start out as a comedy and then, at the editor's insistence, turn to a fighting series (*YuYu Hakusho* being the most blatant example). *Itsudemo Aeru* ("But When I Meet") is a sweet book by Mariko Kikuta. Mitsuo Matayoshi (1944–) is an eccentric Japanese political figure who has repeatedly run for prime minister of Japan. He claims to be the messiah and refers to himself as Jesus Matayoshi or "The Only God Mitsuo Matayoshi Jesus Christ."

Dearka-on-Yzak, page 141

See note for page 63.

Black Hospital, page 141

Black Hospital is short for a Japanese TV show, *Saishyu Keikoku! Takeshi no Honto wa Kowai Katei no Igaku* ("Final Warning! Takeshi's Seriously Frightening Family Medical Science"). Hosted by actor and TV personality Takeshi Kitano (aka "Beat" Takeshi), it's a medical-horror-simulation show, somewhere between a reality show and a bizarre documentary about strange diseases. At the end of each show, the guest panel is tested for their chances of contracting the odd illness of the day. The results are given live on the show.

Repository of unstable things, page 141

Among the items on display are a God Soldier (from Hayao Miyazaki's anime/manga *Nausicaä of the Valley of the Wind*) and a figure with a spiral hole in its forehead (possibly a reference to Junji Ito's horror manga *Uzumaki*).

Sazae-san, page 143

Sazae-san is Machiko Hasegawa's classic 1946–1974 newspaper-strip manga about a Japanese family. The anime based on *Sazae-san* is the longest-running animated TV series in history, having been broadcast every Sunday night at 6:30 P.M. since 1969.

Kubozuka-kun's favorite weed, page 148

Yosuke Kubozuka (1979–) is a Japanese actor whose controversial behavior included speaking out in favor of marijuana, a drug which carries harsh penalties in Japan.

Dr. Mashirito, page 150

Dr. Mashirito is a character from Akira Toriyama's manga *Dr. Slump*.

Yoshiko Sakurai, page 150

Yoshiko Sakura (1945–) is a Japanese newscaster.

Assorted references, page 151

Otome Road (Maiden Road) is a nickname for a street in the Tokyo neighborhood of Ikebukuro. With its many bookstores specializing in *yaoi dôjinshi* and other female-oriented anime and manga products, it has a reputation as a haven for female *otaku*. "Takumachine" is a Japanese porn DVD label. "Gavas points" were a sort of toy money printed in the Japanese video game magazine *Famitsu*, which could be mailed in and redeemed for various products (mugs, pens, keychains, etc.).

Assorted references, page 153

Book Off is a popular Japanese used-book-store chain. *Gintama* is a 2003 sci-fi comedy manga by Hideaki Sorachi, set in a parallel-world version of Meiji Era Japan. *Weekly Shônen Sunday*, published by Shogakukan, was the magazine in which Koji Kumeta debuted as a manga artist, but he later split off from Shogakukan and moved to the rival *Weekly Shônen Magazine*, published by Kodansha. *Sunday* has since been the target of several of Kumeta's barbs, such as volume 1, page 125. (The magazine *YS* floating down the river on volume 1, page 84, could also be a reference to the companion magazine *Young Sunday*, which was canceled in 2008.)

Kenjiro Hata, page 154

Kenjiro Hata is Koji Kumeta's former assistant and the creator of the 2004 manga *Hayate the Combat Butler*.

Run, Eros! page 157

See note for page 120.